

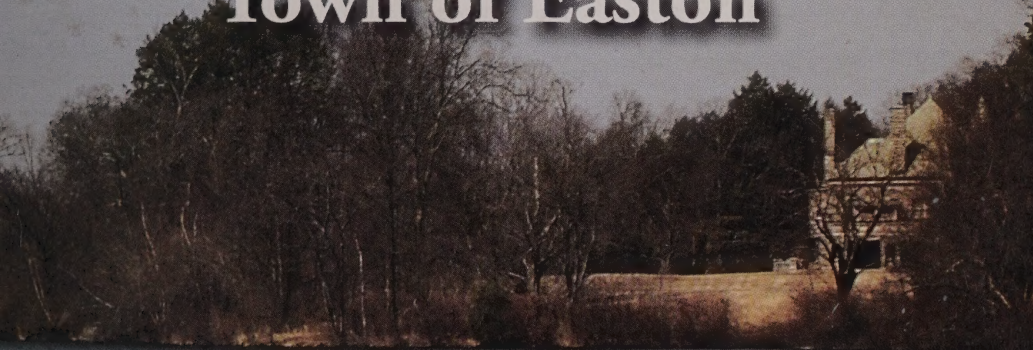
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Town Officers

of the

Town of Easton



2003

LANGWATER POND

The word "Langwater" comes from the Scotch for "long water" or "along the water".

Along the shores of this pond for many decades was located the prosperous "Langwater Farm". This farm was known nationwide for producing the country's finest Guernsey cattle and Clydesdale horses. In recent years, the pond and its environs have been under the watchful stewardship of Oliver F. and Esther D. Ames. Mr. and Mrs. Ames recently donated the Pond from Main Street north to "Fred's Bridge" and several acres of upland along Pond Street to the Easton Conservation Commission. Also, to further ensure that the land will forever remain as open space, a Conservation Restriction was also donated to the Natural Resources Trust of Easton.

Mr. Ames commented that as his father and grandfather, during their lives, made use of the Pond to show their fellow citizens how to skate, he wished to ensure that those uses might continue on Langwater Pond. The vistas from Main Street and the ledge on Pond Street are without doubt among the finest in Easton.

The Town recognizes the significance of this gift and expresses its profound thanks to Oliver and Esther Ames.

TOWN OF EASTON

Incorporated	1725
Area of Town	29.04 Square Miles
Population	22,299 (2000 Federal Census) 23,329 (2003 Town Census)
Form of Government	Town Meeting
Total Assessed Valuation as of January 1, 2003	\$2,386,020,110
Town Meeting	Third Monday in May (The by-law regarding Annual Town Meeting was changed at the Special Town Meeting held on 6/4/001)
Town Election	Fourth Tuesday in April (The by-law regarding Annual Town Election was changed at the Special Town Meeting held on 10/30/00)

REPRESENTATIVES FOR EASTON

United States Senators

John F. Kerry	Edward M. Kennedy
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Representative in Congress

Ninth Congressional District	Stephen F. Lynch, Boston
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State Senators

Second Plymouth & Bristol District (Pcts. 1,2)	Robert S. Creedon, Jr., Brockton
Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth District (Pcts. 3, 4, 5, 6)	Brian A. Joyce, Milton

Representatives in General Court

Eleventh Plymouth District (Pcts. 1, 2, 4, 5)	Geraldine Creedon, Brockton
Eighth Plymouth District (Pct. 6)	David L. Flynn, Bridgewater
Tenth Plymouth District (Pct. 3)	Christine E. Canavan, Brockton

Governor's Councillor

Second District (Pcts. 3, 4, 5, 6)	Kelly A. Timilty, Canton
Fourth District (Pcts. 1,2)	Christopher A. Iannella, Jr., Boston

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES S. AZEVEDO

JOSEPH G. CARDOZA

MARIA J. DeANDRADE

KENNETH G. GRILLO

MARY E. LAWSON

DANIEL J. LOONEY

THERESA M. MATHERS

BEVERLY A. PHILLIPS

CORNELIUS J. SPILLANE

WALTER B. SWANSON

JOHN P. VIEIRA

CHARLES C. WILLIS

In recognition of services of these dedicated citizens who performed their civic duty with enthusiasm and pride, the citizens of Easton hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss and does hereby note in its records their passing from this life and extend to their families their heartfelt sympathy.

TOWN OF EASTON ELECTED OFFICERS:

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>MODERATOR</u>	
Richard C. Dailey	2006
<u>SELECTMEN</u>	
John S. Haederle	2006
Colleen A. Corona (Elected 12/9/03)	2006
Gerard S. Marsan	2005
Carla A. Goodwin	2004
Jeffrey L. Tufts	2004
<u>ASSESSORS</u>	
Shaun Fitzgerald	2006
Gerald J. Noonan	2005
Wallace M. Fulcher	2004
<u>SCHOOL COMMITTEE</u>	
Ellen Barlow Boyajian	2006
William P. Braun	2005
Caroline S. O'Neill	2005
Lennart K. Altieri	2004
Dawn Marie Boynton	2004
<u>BOARD OF HEALTH</u>	
Roger M. Kigler	2006
Gilbert A. Heino	2005
Robert J. Kane	2004
<u>HOUSING AUTHORITY</u>	
Michael J. Malloy	2008
Daniel M. Crane (Resigned)	2007
Sandra L. Conant	2006
June H. Brousseau	2005
Sylvia C. Gardner (St Mmbr) (Resigned)	2004
Denis Sheehy (Appointed 12/03)	2004
<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>	
Irwin M. Cohen	2006
Mark A. Tuniewicz (Resigned)	2006
Mark S. Carpentier	2006
Allen R. Barron (Resigned)	2005
Robert L. Hicks	2005
Stuart R. Benton	2005
David W. Brown	2004
John J. Kent	2004
Heidi M. Churchill (Resigned)	2004
Leonard J. Berkowitz (Appointed)	2004
Patrick A. Goodman (Appointed)	2004
Donna A. Lopolito (Appointed)	2004
<u>REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE</u>	
Ralph Armstead	2006

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Town Administrator	Martha L. White
Animal Control Officer	John D. Melin
Animal Control Officer Asst.	Elizabeth J. DeRosa
Animal Inspector, Milk Inspector	John D. Melin
Assessor, Assistant	Anne M. Carney
Board of Health Director	Wade D. Saucier
Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement	D. Mark Trivett
Council on Aging Director	Dolores M. Kent
DPW Director	Wayne P. Southworth
Fire Chief	Thomas F. Stone
Library Executive Director	Annalee M. Bundy
Moderator, Deputy	John A. Keach, Jr.
Moderator, Deputy	John F. Creedon
Moderator, Deputy	Carla A. Goodwin
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	Robert Govey
Plumbing & Gas Inspector, Asst.	Barton R. Carlson
Police Chief, Acting	Thomas F. Kominsky
Recreation Director	Creighton G. Muscato
School Superintendent	William J. Simmons, Ed.D., J.D.
School Superintendent, Adm. Asst.	Michael Green, Ed. D.
School, Director of Curriculum	Dr. Nancy Sullivan
Town Accountant	Wendy V. Nightingale
Town Clerk	Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk Emeritus	Esther C. Anderson
Town Clerk, Assistant	Jean A. Shearing
Town Counsel	Brackett & Lucas
Town Planner	Marc R. Rousseau
Treasurer and Collector	John L. Nunes
Treasurer and Collector, Asst.	Julie A. Bertram
Veterans Agent	Stephen F. Nolan, III
Water Division Superintendent	John J. Marsh
Wiring Inspector	Albert K. Greiner
Wiring Inspector, Alternate	Kevin Greiner
Wiring Inspector, Asst.	John F. Amorim

APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

(In Alphabetical Order)

TERM EXP.**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Charles King	2008
August Gangi	2007
Steven H. Johnson	2006
John Tupper	2005
Walter Mirrione	2004
Christopher J. Pike, Alternate	2005
Thomas A. Pursley, Alternate	2004

CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE

David S. Wood, Jr.	2004
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CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wayne P. Southworth	2006
William D. Hardin	2005
Philip Barske	2004

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Michael J. Boyle	2007
Sharyn Katz	2005
Charles A. Morgan	2005
Bruce Baker	2004
Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant	
, Planning & Zoning Board	
, Finance Committee	

CEMETERY COMMISSION

John D. Melin	2006
John R. Howard	2005
Raymond Phillips	2004
Melanie Deware, Associate Member	

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

James D. Mullen, Jr.	2006
Michael J. Boyle	2005
Creighton Muscato	2005
Patricia F. Hunt	2004
John E. Grant, Conservation Commission	
Stephen Torrey, Recreation Commission	
Christopher J. Kone, Planning & Zoning Board	
Edmund C. Hands, Historical Commission	
Daniel M. Crane, Housing Authority (Resigned)	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John E. Grant	2006
Patricia A. Haederle	2006
Michael G. Sites	2005
Patricia E. Somers	2004
Barry Dunkley	2004
Jonathan Chace, Associate Member	

CONSTABLES

Brent Peterson	2006
William E. Scharnick	2006
James A. Carey	2005
Scott A. Crelease	2005
John Hurley	2005
Margaret Carey	2005
Michael G. Bombas	2005
George A. Mather	2005
Scott Douglas	2005
David Wood	2005
Robert Bishop	2005
Robert Babineau (Resigned)	2004
Jerold Loomis	2004
Harold L. March	2004
John Melin	2004
Phillip E. White	2004
Desmond Yu-Wai Chow	2004
Peter M. Buckley	2004

COUNCIL ON AGING

Marie Healey	2006
Ethel Pomerleau	2006
Christine Quinn (Resigned)	2005
Francis H. Spillane	2005
Elizabeth A. Verity	2005
Phyllis Kiessling	2004
Nicolina Previti	2004
Dolores M. Kent, Director	

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Sharyn Katz	2005
Pauline Phinney	2005
Jennifer A. Edwards-Hawkins	2004
Susan P. Harrington	2004
William J. MacMullen	2004
Gary Twiraga	2004
Gino DelGuercio	2004

FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE

Kevin McIntyre	2006
Barbara Dolloff-Grattan	2006
Nicolina Previti	2006
Calvin Harris	2006
James F. Breton	2005
Elizabeth A. Verity	2004
George L. Berdos, Jr.	2004

FENCE VIEWERS

John A. Keach, Jr.	
Robert L. Hicks	
Frank Meninno	

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Edmund C. Hands	2006
Robert Babineau (Resigned)	2006
John Ventresco	2006
Greg Galer	2005
Melanie-Jane Deware	2005
Gloria J. Stafford	2004
Catherine Adler	2004
Frank T. Meninno, Associate Member	
Larry Mowatt, Associate Member	

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cheryl Brightman	2005
Avery L. Williams (Resigned)	2004

, Board of Appeals

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

Kenneth Carlson	2006
Richard L. Freitas	2005

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gloria J. Stafford (Town)	2006
Alice B. McCarthy (Town)	2005
James S. Thomas (Corp)	2005
Gerard S. Marsan (Corp)	2005
Donna P. Richman (Corp)	2005
William M. Ames (Corp)	2004
Kathleen E. Boyle (Town)	2004
Hazel L. Varella (Town)	2004

(Town)

Annalee M. Bundy, Executive Director

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Robert E. Langway, Jr.	2006
Henry P. Narsasian	2005
Kenneth Carlson	2005
Paul Mullen	2004
Gail Tuominen (Resigned)	2004
Ralph Vatalaro	2004

OLD COLONY ELDER SERVICES

Elizabeth Verity, Board of Directors
Nicolina Previti, Board of Directors Alternate

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL (OCPC)

Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Representative
Stephen Donahue, Delegate Alternate

OCPC AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Phyllis Kiessling, Delegate
Marie Healey, Alternate

OCPC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Wayne P. Southworth, Representative

PERMANENT LANDFILL COMMITTEE

Richard J. Harb	2006
Gil A. Heino	2006
Todd M. Heino	2005
Henry H. Mehler	2004
James J. Conceison	2004
David Brown, Finance Committee	

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Christine Santoro	2008
Christopher J. Kone	2007
Walter H. Johnson	2006
Colin W. Gillis	2005
Mark S. Bartlett	2004
Amanda Buck Varella, Alternate	2004

RECREATION COMMISSION

Charles H. Hammond	2006
Frank Spillane	2006
John MacDonald	2005
Michael Carey (Resigned)	2005
Matthew K. Campbell	2005
Kathleen A. Endriunas	2005
Stephen Torrey (Resigned)	2004
Michael J. McDonald	2004
Creighton G. Muscato, Director	

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Kent M. Keith	2006
Jean M. Kent	2005
Jean H. Cote	2004
Janet Andrus Linehan, Clerk	

SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Marc R. Brockman	2006
Lennart K. Altieri	
Dawn Marie Boynton	
Judith E. Josephs	
Henry P. Narsasian	4/14/2006
Wallace Fulcher	4/14/2006

, Finance Committee

Robert L. Hicks, Finance Committee

VETERANS' GRAVES OFFICER

John D. Melin	2008
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VETERANS AND MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

Alvin Smart, Commander VFW
Louis G. Silva
John Flynn
Ernest R. Camara
Daniel B. Amorim
Paul H. Tanner

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Howard Margulies

Daniel M. Crane

Mary Ellen Radanovic (Resigned)

Ronald Lawson

Kenneth Carlson

John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent

WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Eugene Packer 2006

James D. Mullen, Jr. 2005

Shirley Tufts 2004

Wayne P. Southworth, Local Water Resources Management Officer

John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent

WORLD WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

John F. Hurley, Chair

Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Chairman, School Committee

Commander, George F. Schindler Post VFW

Commander, George S. Shepard Post, A.L.

John D. Melin

Robert J. McLaughlin

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

On April 1, 2003 Kevin E. Paicos completed his term as Easton's longest serving Town Administrator and assumed a position within the private sector. His many contributions and service to the Town over the years were acknowledged with grateful appreciation. Assistant Town Administrator, Martha White, was appointed by the Board as Interim Town Administrator. Thereafter, the Board voted to appoint Melinda Carlton as its new Town Administrator. As a result of the April Annual Election, the Board welcomed John Haederle as its new Member in place of Leo Harlow, whose service was acknowledged with appreciation. In May of 2003 the Board of Selectmen, and Melinda Carlton, agreed to sever their relationship and in June of 2003 Martha White was appointed Town Administrator.

In addition to addressing extensive meeting agendas involving public hearings, licensing hearings, build out of our infrastructure, economic growth, and the day-to-day issues commonly dealt with by any municipality, significant activities, developments and accomplishments during this year included:

- Meeting the challenges presented by decreased State aid and slow growth of the economy in general, while maintaining appropriate standards of public service, including reorganization of municipal departments.
- Completion of the capping of the landfill.
- Addressing our obligations in the area of providing affordable housing as mandated by MGL Chapter 40B.
- Participation in programs of regionalization of traditional municipal services.
- Working toward the formation of fiscal principals to be adopted by all of those bodies that have input concerning municipal finances.
- Managing issues associated with the junior and senior high school construction project.
- Personnel by-law amendments and the proposed union organization of our municipal employees, referred to as "non-union employees".
- Pending disability retirement of Police Chief, Stanley Bates, and appointment of Thomas Kominsky as Acting Chief.
- Establishing procedures and response plans, as a result of 9/11 and the Patriot Act.
- Increasing awareness of the importance of Easton's Five Corners as our major commercial area and planning roadway and infrastructure improvements with the cooperation of commercial partnerships in meeting that area's needs.

Another significant development was the fact that the MBTA's plans to revitalize the commuter rail through Easton lost much momentum and may no longer be viable due to significant environmental and funding issues having been identified.

Although State reimbursement and funding formulas for both Easton's schools and the South Eastern Regional School continue to place us at a disadvantage when compared to other communities, we are committed to a process to continually advocate for a more equitable share of these resources.

Through it all, the challenge is the constant one of being called upon to do more with fewer resources. As a community, we have been fortunate to have been able to attract individuals who accept such challenges and more. To these people and to our administrative staff consisting of Martha White, Mary McCarthy and Linda Paquin, we express the appreciation of the community of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard S. Marsan, Chairman

Jeffrey L. Tufts, Clerk

Carla A. Goodwin

John S. Haederle

Colleen A. Corona

2003 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The assessors are responsible for the efficient and uniform administration of local tax laws regarding real estate and personal property valuation. The assessors value all property and maintain the assessment rolls for tax billing. Exemptions for elderly, blind and disabled veterans are processed through this office. This office also assesses the motor vehicle excise tax and handles all inquiries regarding motor vehicle abatements. Overvaluation applications on real and personal property are reviewed and decided at the local level by the Board and defended by the Board when an appeal goes to the Appellate Tax Board. The Community Preservation Act Surcharge is assessed through this office and the Board makes decisions on exemptions to this surcharge. Property taxes and motor vehicle excise taxes account for sixty two per cent of the Town's revenue. The office maintains current maps for assessment purposes and produces abutters' lists for public hearings by other Town departments. The Board prepares information for the Board of Selectmen regarding the public hearing on classification to decide whether to shift tax burdens amongst the various categories of property. The Board is responsible for submitting the recapitulation sheet to the Department of Revenue for setting the tax rate.

Fiscal Year 2004 was a state-certified revaluation year. The Department of Revenue certified that the Town was assessing values in conformity with the Massachusetts General Laws governing assessment of real and personal property for taxation purposes. According to the Department of Revenue rules and regulations, every parcel must be reviewed by the assessors at least once every ten years. The Department of Revenue is suggesting cyclical inspection of a percent of parcels every year instead of having communities have a huge outlay of money every ten years to do this. The Town will now be inspecting properties on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with this rule.

The Department of Revenue is requiring "interim adjustments" to property values whenever the ratio of assessment to selling price drops below 90%. Recently, selling prices are rising at more than 10% over assessments and that means annually changing values according to market activity.

A change that took place in 2003 was the enactment of Chapter 46, the "municipal relief bill". This bill contains provisions to collect pro rata taxes on parcels that receive a certificate of occupancy after the assessment date. These parcels will receive a supplemental tax bill that will be due May 1st and the bill will be prorated from the date of occupancy to the end of the fiscal year. The increase in value must be 50% or more over what was previously assessed in order to issue a bill. This bill is commonly referred to as the "Hopkinton Bill".

A SUMMARY OF THE RECAPITULATION SHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 IS AS FOLLOWS:

Assessed Value of Real Estate	\$ 2,355,839,550.00
Assessed Value of Personal Property	30,180,560.00
Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property	\$ 2,386,020,110.00

EXPENDITURES:

Appropriations	\$ 47,250,689.91
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Misc.Charges	151,091.51
State & County Charges	554,604.00
Overlay Account	562,850.94

Total Expenditures \$ 48,519,236.36

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS:

State Receipts	\$	10,804,122.00
Local Receipts		4,135,000.00
Offset Receipts		456,447.00
Enterprise Funds		2,879,250.00
Free Cash/Other Available Funds		2,280,867.91
Community Preservation Funds		739,060.00

Total Receipts & Available Funds	\$	21,294,746.91
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NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION	\$	27,224,489.45.16
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Tax Rate = $27,224,489.45 / 2,386,020,110 \times 1000 = \11.41

The assessment date for fiscal year 2004 values was January 1, 2003. The Town now has 5,274 single-family homes, 1180 condominiums, 164 two-family homes and 21 three-family homes.

Significant Dates for Taxpayers and Citizens regarding the Assessors' Office:

June 30 th	Property Tax Assessment Date. The Town adopted Chapter 653 of the Ma. General Laws at the Special Town Meeting in January, 2004. This changed the date from January 1 st to June 30 th for fiscal year 2005.
February 1 st	Payment of third quarterly tax bill and deadline for accepting appeals. The only time taxpayers can appeal assessments due to overvaluation or disproportionate assessment is from the time the third actual bill is mailed in December through February 1 st (or the next work day if February 1 st falls on a weekend.)
March 1 st	Date for submission of Forms of List. This is a listing of all business personal property and must be filed every year by anyone doing business in Town.
March	Exemption applications for elderly (over 70), blind persons, and disabled veterans with a rating from the VA, can be accepted up to three months from the time the actual tax bill is mailed the previous December. Applications are mailed in August to anyone currently qualifying. Community Preservation Act exemptions may be submitted anytime after March 1 st and must be accompanied by the income tax filing from the previous year. Contact the office for exemption forms.
May 1 st	Payment of fourth quarterly tax bill.
August 1 st	Payment of the 1 st preliminary tax bill. Preliminary bills are based on at least one quarter of the taxes from the previous fiscal year. If significant changes have taken place such as subdivision of land or new construction taxes will be estimated accordingly. New construction and subdivisions will be based on whatever is complete on the previous June 30 th .
November 1 st	Payment of the 2 nd preliminary tax bill.
December	Setting of the tax rate and mailing of the third quarterly bill that is the actual tax bill for the current fiscal year.

Telephone Number for questions or information: 508-230-0520

WALLY FULCHER,	CHAIRMAN
GERALD J. NOONAN,	VICE-CHAIRMAN
SHAUN FITZGERALD	CLERK

2003 REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2003 was a busy year for the Finance Committee. The fiscal condition of the Town, coupled with the State's fiscal constraints, has effectively crippled the Town of Easton's budgets. The Finance Committee continued to address all financial transactions that came before Town Meeting, while focusing on budgetary matters with all Town department heads.

Once again, the lateness of the State Budget contributed to the delay in preparation of the Town's budget. The Finance Committee recommended that the Annual Town meeting be moved to June so that the Committee could adequately review the budget and present a full and complete budget analysis to Town Meeting. As we have done in prior years, the Finance Committee met with ALL department heads, analyzed ALL of the town's departmental budgets, and suggested changes and/or reductions to many budgets while approving other budgets without significant changes. All enterprise, revolving and debt accounts were analyzed in detail by the Finance Committee.

The Annual Town meeting requested that the Finance Committee present options for the next budget cycle as it relates to Elected Officials Stipends and Health Insurance. Currently there are several boards that are elected and receive nominal stipends. Board members who receive this nominal stipend during the year are automatically eligible for Town-subsidized Health Insurance and Pension benefits. The Finance Committee met a number of times in 2003 with these elected boards to help prepare the options it will present at the next Annual Town Meeting.

During the year, the Committee requested that the budgets be prepared in a more comprehensive and useful format. The Committee was successful in changing the "unclassified" budget from one large consolidated budget into two more detailed budgets titled "Employee Benefits and Insurance" and "Other General Government". Furthermore, we have requested for 2004 that the Employee Benefits appear in the departmental budgets not consolidated in one large budget account. This will provide the readers a better accounting and understanding of what it takes to run a department.

The Finance Committee had three resignations during the year; two due to the members relocating outside of Easton and another due to time commitments. The Finance Committee, in a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, appointed three new and very qualified members.

The committee continues to meet throughout the year to review department budgets and address issues for the Town as they arise. In addition, the Committee provides representation on the Capital Planning Committee, School Planning Committee, Municipal Building Committee, Landfill Committee, and the Town Administrator Screening Committee.

Our thanks and appreciation is extended to our Committee Secretary, Marie Graca for her dedication and commitment to our Board. Additionally, we thank our immediate past members who have served on the Board; Heidi Churchill, Mark Tuniewicz and Allen Barron.

Finally, the Committee thanks all of the Town Departments for their hard work; cooperation and team work in the past year, and looks forward to continuing this mutually respectful partnership.

Respectively Submitted,

Stuart R. Benton, CPA – Chairman
Leonard J. Berkowitz
Dave Brown
Mark Carpentier – Clerk
Irwin Cohen – Vice Chairman
Patrick Goodman
Robert Hicks
John Kent
Donna Abelli Lopolito, CPA

2003 REPORT OF THE EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

During 2003, the Easton Public Schools continued to address new responsibilities and demands, while focusing on short and long-range plans to meet increased programmatic, space and school renovation concerns. Certainly, the support by Easton citizens of the secondary school building projects was greatly appreciated, and allows the school system and the community to appropriately plan for current and future generations of Easton students.

At the same time, the collaboration between the School Committee, staff, parents and the community-at-large a gain provided the foundation for a comprehensive and cohesive approach to the education of the students of Easton.

As this report indicates, the Easton Public Schools evidenced significant accomplishments and changes during the past year. In addition to the administrative, statutory and fiscal impacts that influenced the day-to-day operation of the school system, a number of events, achievements, and issues are indicative of the active and productive learning that takes place in the schools. This summary touches upon some of the details that made up the lives of the young people and adults of Easton during the past year.

STAFF CHANGES

A number of staff changes were experienced by the school system during the 2003 school year. Retirements included Secondary Foreign Language Department Chair Fran Ialenti, Secondary English teacher Barbara LeBeau, Secondary Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Donna Carter, Junior High School Library Resource Aide Barbara Beech, Elementary teachers Marie Coleman, Virginia Curley, Judith Connolly, Virginia Elson and Susan Peluso, Elementary Music Specialist Patricia Baker, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Judith Frederick, and SPED Drivers W. Douglas Brown, Warren Edwardson and George Studley.

Staff moving to other professional opportunities included Secondary Science Department Head Ellen Russell, SPED Learning Specialists Lynne Bazydlo, Deborah Gilden and Dan Richard, Physics teacher Mark Pumphrey, Music teacher and Band Director Steven Conant, Elementary teacher Donna Morin, Physical Education teacher Christine Creighton, High School Custodian Frank Pucillo, and Central Office Secretary Joyce Manning. In addition, staff and students were very saddened by the loss of Ken Grillo, Parkview School Custodian.

The Easton schools and the Town of Easton will certainly miss the professionalism, love of children and dedication shown by those staff members who have left the school system during this period of change and transition.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The class of 2003 was highly successful in reaching its goals. Approximately ninety-six percent enrolled in four-year colleges, junior colleges, community colleges, nursing schools or technical institutes. Four percent elected to join the world of work and/or the military.

The class of 2003 also set a new record for accruing the largest financial aid total to date. The individual awards were a combination of collegiate, federal, state and local funds. The citizens of Easton continued their generosity by contributing to the many scholarships raised within the community.

While students continued to achieve well above state and national levels in the SATs, Advanced Placement test scores in English Language and Literature, United States History, and Calculus indicated that approximately 80 percent of those taking the tests earned scores of 3 or above, thus entitling them to

college credit. A number of high school students earned Commended Student status from the National Merit Scholarship competition.

Easton students continued to take advantage of dual enrollment opportunities at Bridgewater State and Massasoit, while others were involved in coursework at Stonehill College for both high school and college credit. The Business and Technology Department's Shadow Program, improving career education, had more than sixty students shadow local employers for a day in over thirty area companies to learn about a previously selected occupation. Students were also involved in Career Speaker Day, in which speakers from a myriad of careers and occupations volunteered to meet with students, both in their classes and individually.

The high school chapter of Future Business Leaders of America received recognition by the state organization, with Brian Teague selected as the Massachusetts F.B.L.A. Parliamentarian. At the State level competition, Andrew Donahue placed first in Business Math, Joan Fagan and Jayna Clarke tied for first in Business English, Jake Kelly was first in Marketing, and Meaghan Toomey placed first in Business Communication. Second place winners included Ben Kaplan in Business Law, Andrew Donahue in Economics, and Dave Kligler in Marketing, while third place winners included Patrick Doherty in Business Communications, Jonathan Spencer in Accounting II, and Kevin Field in Marketing.

High school and junior high school students were involved in three days of intensive training in conflict resolution and peer mediation strategies. The program is in its eleventh year and has proven to be a very effective means of resolving peer issues and conflicts.

At the junior high school, Peer Assistant Leaders continued to provide assistance for students new to the building. In addition to providing information to grade 6 students at the Olmsted and Richardson schools, students assisted at the afternoon and evening functions held at the junior high school. The National Junior Honor Society welcomed new members into the Society and undertook a number of community service projects, including the NRT Harvest Fair, the Lions Club Auction and tutoring students after school.

An outgrowth of this involvement at the junior high school was the student organization, HANDS, through which Easton students dedicated themselves to promoting tolerance and respect for others, and focused on ways to help achieve a non-discriminatory society. One such way was the continuation of the Facing History and Ourselves program, an interdisciplinary focus of study at each junior high school grade level. Also at the junior high school, the guidance staff worked closely with HUGS II in coordinating after-school programs that included enrichment as well as entertainment for junior high school students. Programs offered included sports activities, and a homework club, Spanish club, videography club and computer club. A late bus was again sponsored for the students.

The Art Department continued to oversee many contests so that students had an opportunity to compete in a variety of arenas. Seven high school students were selected to participate in the state-wide Boston Globe Art Awards, including Mark Burns, Sean Doherty, Kaitlyn O'Brien, Marrisa Tasho, Otavio Perestrelo, Beaz Gramz and Jackie Thomas. At the junior high school, five Easton students also gained recognition, Savas Vallas, Allisa Feldbau, Adrianna Farley, Christopher Lopes, and Thomas Maga. Junior high students also participated in the SMARTS Middle School Art Show, while student Allison Hamilton won the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. Elementary students had their art work recognized through the Easton Water Department Poster Contest and the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Student work was also exhibited at many locations throughout the year, including the high school's alumni art gallery, the art hallway in the high school, the Central Administration office, the "Welcome Mat" mural in the high school, the Fuller Art Museum, the Easton Marketplace, the Brockton Art Center, the Attleboro Art Museum, the Transportation Building in Boston, Stonehill College, and the Wang Center.

In Music, the Oliver Ames High School Marching Band and Color Guard, under the direction of new Band Director Joseph Carucci, won a Gold Medal at the Tigerama Marching Band Competition held at Oliver Ames High School, and won gold and silver medals at subsequent competitions in Melrose, Shepherd Hill,

Dartmouth, Weymouth and New Bedford. The Band continued their very successful season in November, receiving a Silver Medal at the NESBA Finals in Brockton.

The OAHS Show Choir, Panache, received a Gold Medal at the Mill City Show Choir Festival, with the Pit Band receiving a Gold Medal for their performance. The Show Choir and Pit Band also won Gold Medals at the Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival. The Show Choir received a Gold Medal, the Grand Champion Award, and awards for Best Vocals, Best Choreography and Best Show at the Eastern Show Choir Festival in Waltham, with the Pit Band receiving a Gold Medal and Best Instrumentals for their performance.

The high school orchestra, led by Kari Keiser, performed at the State House in May, and participated in the first String Student Recital held at Unity Church in Easton. Students performed solo and small ensemble pieces. The orchestra also joined the Duxbury and Hingham school orchestras in a joint concert that was held in Duxbury.

At the junior high school level, the Junior High Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Chorus earned either a Gold or Silver rating at the Great East Festival in Springfield, MA. Five junior high school students also participated in the Junior SEMSBA Festival in Sharon, including Roberta Anderson, Lindsay Athanasiou, Ryan Haggerty, Marissa Keegan and Sarah Maloney. The junior high music program continued its high quality of instruction, providing the necessary foundation for an educationally diverse high school experience.

The 2003 OAHS musical production of "Oklahoma," directed by Mrs. Dalrymple, was an outstanding production and excellent learning experience for the fifty-two students in the cast and the numerous staff and parents who participated. A number of students also received individual recognition throughout the year for their musical talent. Among the many students so honored were Ian Fredericks, Zachary Langway, Deborah Loomis and Stephen Twiraga, chosen for the All-State Chorus.

Five Easton students were chosen to participate in the All-State Festival, with a performance at Symphony Hall in Boston. Also, Joseph Arsenaault, Nick Mezzanotte, Elizabeth Freitas, Deborah Loomis, Maggie Blair Lamb, Sarah Hodge and Katie Cooke participated in the SEMSBA Music Festival in Hingham. Once again, TEMPO provided much financial and emotional support to the overall program.

At the elementary level, concerts were held in January and May at the Olmsted/Richardson schools, and featured the combined Olmsted and Richardson fifth grade chorus, sixth grade chorus, orchestra, chamber orchestra, jazz band, show choir and the concert band. Also in May, Olmsted and Richardson students, under the direction of Carol Allen, presented "School House Rock," with over one hundred students participating in the program. In the three primary schools, students participated in musical tributes on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and individual schools held many end-of-the-year musical productions with outstanding student participation and individual and group performances. Among these productions was "The Baker's Dozen," a farewell program for retiring music teacher Patricia Baker.

In Social Studies, students were involved in Community Service, Student Government Day, the Academic Bowl Team, the Mock Trial program, National History Day for Grade 8 students, the two day Hockomock Senate, the Lions Club Speech Competition, school Geography Bees, the Easton Film Festival, and the Pvt. George F. Schindler Post of the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest. Students participated in two student government programs, the Mock Trial team finished the regular season with another perfect record before dropping a tie breaker match to Cardinal Spellman, and the team of Laura Bernstein, Caroline Mullen, Lauren Nicholaides and Carly VanZandt placed first at the Easton Film Festival competition.

In the Foreign Language Department, students were unable to travel abroad in 2003 because of the impact of continuing terrorist threats. Travel plans abroad for the following year will depend on security and safety factors for all involved. Not having this part of the program, with trip opportunities to Spain, France and/or Italy, was again a real loss for the students and the program itself. However, students continued to achieve in the various languages, with students who were recognized through the National Latin exam including Joe

Davis, Hayley Cotter, Emily Ring, Greg Brockman, Dennis Bartlett, Jesse Victor, Meghan Johnson, and Kasara Martin. Also, three graduating seniors were presented outstanding achievement awards, including Dana Gorodetsky in Latin, Colleen Walsh in French, and Marlon Costa in Spanish.

Students in Family and Consumer Sciences again baked cookies for the Easton Firefighters annual children's party, prepared and sent off large care packages to one Oliver Ames graduate in Afganistan and another in Iraq, quilted baby quilts for donation to needy children and the HUGS organization, donated hand sewn cloth dolls to the Boston Medical Center pediatric ward as part of the "Annual Doll Project" sponsored by the hospital, cooked holiday meals for elderly citizens involved with the Council of Aging, prepared refreshments for the Science Fair, altered prom gowns, made costumes for school plays, and sponsored outdoor barbecues for the three junior high school classes. At OAHs, the "Visiting Chefs" program continued to be a highly popular interdisciplinary addition to the school year. Local chefs from Easton and surrounding communities volunteered their expertise in the field to benefit the development of student skills.

In the English Department, the most wide spread changes in the English classroom continued to focus on the increased use of technology, including the communication of English and analytical skills through a variety of media. Student generated videos, power point presentations, performances, speeches, creative projects, academic research, and scholarly writing are just a few examples of the diverse means of expression employed by the students in the English classroom. In the 2003 Poetry Slam, Victoria Large took first place. Students who were recognized for their appreciation of literature included Allison Martinelli, Joan Fagan, Amanda Grazioli, Victoria Large, Ben Kaplan, Marlon Costa and Caroline Mullen.

The Physical Education Department added a new dimension to its program with the inclusion of "Quidditch" into the elementary curriculum. "Quidditch" provides a medium for interdisciplinary teaching and learning by applying imagery from reading lessons to an adaptation of the game of lacrosse. Classroom activities and current events are connected with meaningful experiences in physical education that foster school spirit, respect, responsibility, and good sportsmanship. The physical education staff at the junior high school continued to instill enthusiasm for running and cardiovascular fitness by sponsoring the annual "Muscato Mile," which coincided with the Great American Smoke-Out and encouraged students to make wise decisions regarding their health. At the high school, students focused on an awareness of the health-related components of fitness by completing writing assignments on cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance. These are then kept in student portfolios.

Mathematics students in the secondary schools continued to score well above the norm in the state mandated MCAS exam. All of the students in Mrs. Boyle's AP Calculus class received a score of 3 or higher to qualify for college credits, with half of them receiving the highest possible score. Also, the OAHs Mathematics Team, with students from Algebra II to AP Calculus, had an extremely successful year, while students on the junior high school Mathematics Team once again excelled in the American Mathematics competition.

In the Science Department, at the grade 9 level, the physical science program moved into its second year of operation, utilizing technology grant money to support this initiative with laptop computers and state-of-the-art data collection probes. The grade 7 engineering technology program again included grade 8 students, affording them practical problem solving experience and preparatory skills for the grade 9 physical sciences program. Also, over five hundred high school students participated in a number of year-end mini-courses in the second year that this innovative endeavor has been offered.

The following Industrial Technology students received personal recognition for their craftsmanship and work ethic: Automotive Technology – Matt Vaughan; Auto Body Technology – Andy Salisbury; Architectural Building Engineering – Greg Pray; Building Construction and Cabinetmaking – Jeff Keach; Manufacturing Design Technology – William Willard; Manufacturing Technology – Peter Narsasian; and, Manufacturing Engineering Technology – Aaron Daniels.

Elementary school students continued to achieve and find success in a variety of forums. Among the areas to be highlighted are the following: the beginning of the year performances by Scott Flansburg, "The Human Calculator," to initiate the school district's renewed emphasis on mathematics; the "Jump Rope for Heart" initiative; the Science Olympiad, through the coordination of the high school Science Team; the second annual school wide art show at the Richardson School; the district-wide grade 3 Family Science Night; the Bullying Education Program for grade 4 and grade 5 students, sponsored by Kids CARRE and the Easton Family Task Force; Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Nights; the opportunity to participate in the grade 5 and 6 National Geography Bee, in which Patrick Kelly was the Richardson School winner.

Other elementary activities included the Dr. Seuss' Birthday reading celebration activities; ongoing community service endeavors; the outstanding projects displayed in the elementary school invention conventions; the continued success shown by students in the New England Math League; participation in the Johns Hopkins Talent Search; Danielle McVay, Tyler Noveletsky and Dana Belanger, Olmsted students, having their poetry published in the Anthology of Young Poets 2003 edition; the accomplishments of the Future Problem Solving Teams; student participation in the social competency programs; the SAFE Fire Safety Program; the Northeast Search Dogs Program; the Read Across America Program; the Operation Mail Call; the Lions Club Peace Poster International Contest; the World of Difference curriculum; and, individual school programs for students such as student councils, school stores, student newsletters and newspapers, reading incentive programs, family math, science, technology and literacy nights, summer reading programs, and citizen of the month recognition.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers in the elementary schools participated in workshops, institutes, mini-courses, study groups and graduate courses on a number of topics, including the following: Developing Fluency in Young Readers; Teaching Report Writing Skills in the Interdisciplinary Classroom; Making Guided Reading Work in a Balanced Literacy Classroom; Differentiated Instruction; Strategies that Work: Teaching Comprehension to Enhance Understanding; Integration of the Arts; The Power of Retelling; Power Point; Literature and Literacy; Cooperative Learning; Instructional Technology; Motivating and Inspiring Students; Student Restraint Training; Special Education Topics; Gifted and Talented Education; Issues in Autism: Mentoring New Teachers; Social Competency; Handwriting Practices; MCAS Preparation; Standards Based Classrooms; Math for the New Millennium; Diagnostic Reading Assessment; and, Best Works Portfolio and Assessment Folders.

At the secondary level, professional development initiatives focused on a number of topics, including the following: the NEAS&C Evaluation; Effective Strategies for Teaching Middle School Students; Teaching Report Writing Skills in the Interdisciplinary Classroom; Using Power Point for Classroom Presentations; Developing Websites; MCAS Alternative Assessment; Learning Disabilities; Inclusion at the Secondary Level; Media Education in the Arts; Assessing Learning Styles; Exploring the Connection Between Art and Writing; Curriculum Design and Instruction; Using the I-Movie as an Instructional Tool; Using Inspiration 6.0; Music Learning Theory; Understanding Teaching I; Mentor Teacher Training; and, Leadership in the Differentiated School.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT/ACTIVITIES

Third grade teachers at the Parkview School wrote a successful F.E.E.E. grant for a music residency, which will support retired music teacher Patricia Baker in the writing, producing and directing of a musical performance entitled "Making Music in Massachusetts." Also, Parkview teachers with professional status and the principal participated in a study group on differentiated instruction.

Several members of the Moreau Hall faculty wrote and received a grant from the United States Department of Environmental Protection to develop an Outdoor Science Area on the land contiguous to the school. Also, teachers Pat Gentile, Sherrie Alford, Carole Pray and principal Bob Smith worked with Dr. Roger Denome, the Science Department Chair at Stonehill College, to develop a web site and a map for local teachers to use when they visit the Chet Raymo Science Trail behind Moreau Hall.

In the Central Office, Marilyn Gordon, Director of School Business Operations, completed her program for a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

Christine Esmeraldo, Joan Eranio, Kim Krockta and Robin Goldstein of Center School all received their Masters Degree in Education, while Robin Goldstein was asked to speak to undergraduate students at Stonehill College about the role of the early childhood teacher.

At the Olmsted School, Virginia Elson was chosen as Educator of the Year by the Lions Club. Alicia Montross and Erick Chase once again conducted a summer learning skills program as a support endeavor for incoming fifth and sixth grade students. The program focused on organizational skills, critical thinking, and studying strategies. Also, Dennis Bray, Jennifer Creighton, John Willis, Sarah Lake, and Kerry Schwarz completed their Masters Programs at area colleges and universities.

Richardson School teacher Laura Murphy, as part of her Masters Program, initiated Kids CARRE, a student task force to address issues of bullying in public schools. Also at the Richardson School, school psychologist Barbara Pummell completed her Doctoral program in school psychology, and Heather Carbone was awarded her Masters of Education degree.

In the high school, Jean Churchill received the Outstanding Local Advisor Award for Massachusetts from the national Future Business Leaders of America organization. Junior high school teacher Season Walrath received her Master of Education degree, while high school teacher Amy Richendollar completed all coursework for her Masters Degree in Mathematics. High school teachers working on advanced degrees included William Fish, Beverly Nicholson, and Matthew Ryan. Junior high school staff enrolled in advanced degree programs included Guidance Counselor Amy Meehan and teacher Jake Sunderland.

Also at the secondary level, Charlene Dalrymple, Music Department Chair, completed her Masters Degree in Educational Leadership, and Ron Riley was chosen as the new chair of the Foreign Language Department.

CURRICULUM/TECHNOLOGY

The Curriculum Coordinating Council, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Sullivan, continued its emphasis on aligning the Easton Public Schools curriculum with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Nine standing curriculum committees are working under the direction of the coordinating council: Mathematics, co-chaired by Dr. Mary-Ellen Toscano and Ed Weiner; Science, chaired by Dr. Gary Mazzola; English/Language Arts, co-chaired by Jennella Porter and Joan Nicholaides; Health, co-chaired by James Mitchell and Kathy Kelly; Technology, co-chaired by Chris Margulies and Jean Churchill; Physical Education, chaired by Christine Powers; Social Studies, co-chaired by Margaret Lynch and Edmund Hands; World Languages, co-chaired by Ron Riley and Bob Smith; and the Arts, co-chaired by Charlene Dalrymple and Arnie Casavant.

Several of the committees completed new curriculum documents in 2003, including Secondary Mathematics and Elementary Health. Also, the French III, IV and V and Spanish III, IV and V curricula were presented to and approved by the School Committee.

The school system continued its curriculum revision cycle in Secondary Health and Physical Education, Secondary Science and K-6 Social Studies. Areas currently being targeted for revision include K-12 Art and K-12 Music, Latin, Industrial Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Elementary Mathematics, and K-8 English, Reading and Language Arts.

In the spring of 2003, an expanded version of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing program was administered. Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 participated in the MCAS. Following the release of the results in late September, parent meetings were held to disseminate the information and to discuss improvement strategies. Once again, Easton ranked in the top twenty-five percent of all school districts in Massachusetts.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Oliver Ames more than 50% of all high school students participated in an athletic activity, and approximately 25% participated in music or drama.

A number of the varsity sports teams did extremely well this past year. The girls' soccer team won the Hockomock League title and was very successful in state tournament action, and the boys' soccer team again challenged in the state tournament. The girls' and boys' cross country teams both finished well in the All-State meet. The varsity field hockey and baseball teams, as well as the girls' and boys' tennis teams also advanced to the state tournament. During the past year, thirty-eight student athletes from Oliver Ames High School were selected as Hockomock League All-Stars in the various varsity sports. The group of MVP League All-Stars included Sara Powell in spring track, and Head Coach Britt Sellmayer was chosen as the *Brockton Enterprise* Coach of the Year for girls' soccer.

In addition to the varsity sports teams, students had the opportunity to participate in 9 junior varsity programs, 4 freshman programs and 5 programs at the Easton Junior High School.

The Easton community and various booster groups again made significant contributions to our athletic program, helping to purchase new uniforms and to sponsor end-of-the-year awards banquets. The creation this year of a Hall of Fame in Easton also evidenced the wonderful support and direction provided by the residents of the town. The student athletes and coaches of the Easton Public Schools are again extremely appreciative of the emotional, financial and fan support provided by the community.

CONCLUSION

The last year was again a time of significant change and transition within the school system. We continue to be extremely concerned about decreasing State Aid and the availability of adequate resources to meet the expectations that we have for ourselves and our student population. Nevertheless, we are grateful for our many blessings. We appreciate the support of the School Parent Advisory Councils, School Councils, and the various booster groups; the extraordinary efforts of F.E.E.E. and the STEPS organization; the hard work and dedication of the School Committee; and, the excellent and cooperative working relationships among all the members of the entire staff as well as between the schools and the town.

Respectfully submitted,

William Simmons
Superintendent of Schools

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Easton School Committee is pleased to submit the following report to the citizens of Easton

In April's annual town election, Ellen Barlow-Boyajian was elected for her second three-year term on the committee. The committee once again elected William Braun as Chairman and Ellen Barlow-Boyajian as Vice Chair.

As in 2002 school year, there were staff changes in the 2003 school year. The staff who retired were: Patricia Baker, Elementary Music, Barbara Beech, Library Resource Aide, W. Douglas Brown, SPED Driver, Donna Carter, Family & Consumer Sciences, Marie Colman, Elementary Teacher, Judith Connolly, Elementary Teacher, Virginia Curley, Elementary Teacher, Warren Edwardson, SPED Driver, Virginia Elson, Elementary Teacher, Judith Frederick, Asst. Superintendent, Francis Ialenti, Foreign Language Teacher, Barbara LeBeau, English Teacher, Susan Peluso, Elementary Teacher, George Studley, SPED Driver. Those who resigned were: Lynne Bazydlo, Learning Specialist, Steven Conant, Band Director, Joyce Manning, Secretary to the Director of Curriculum, Donna Morin, Elementary Teacher, Frank Pucillo, Custodian, Mark Pumphrey, Physics, Ellen Russell, Physics Teacher

The school system's proposed budget of \$22,152,182 for Fiscal Year 2004 was approved by Town Meeting in June of 2003. This decrease of more than \$100,00 coupled with the increase of insurance costs, contractual personnel costs, fuel costs and other operational expenses, will not afford sufficient funds to decrease class size while enrollment increases, to provide needed professional development opportunities for our teachers, nor to enhance and develop programs which would benefit our students.

The planned expansion of The Junior High and Oliver Ames High schools took a significant step forward this past year. In early January of 2003, by a two thirds majority at a Special Town Meeting, the Town was authorized to borrow the money needed to hire an architect and a project manager. Once the architect was selected and the plans completed, the necessary paper work was submitted to DOE. In late fall, the project was approved. Easton was then placed near the top of the reimbursement priority list with a reimbursement of 67% Once approved by the School Building Assistant Bureau of DOE, there was a transfer of responsibilities from Easton's School Building Committee to the Municipal Building Committee. The completed renovation and expansion of these two schools will allow the administration to move the ninth grade from the Junior High School to Oliver Ames High School. This move plus the additional class rooms in both buildings will relieve the present overcrowded conditions.

The School Committee took note of the continued dedication and professionalism of both our teachers and staff. With limited resources they were able to maintain, even enhance, a learning environment where our students could develop both intellectually and socially. To cite but one benchmark of a accomplishment: Every senior passed the MCAS test and graduated. Out of 215 school systems across the State of Massachusetts, Easton ranked 35th. Given the resources available, this is an astonishing achievement

Not only have our students excelled academically, but they have also excelled in the areas of athletics and the arts. Such accomplishments were possible through the combined hard work of our administration and staff along with an unusually large and dedicated groups of volunteers. Their combined efforts has allowed us to provide a far richer program than would otherwise be possible. For example, the local education foundation (F.E.E.E.-Foundation for Excellence in Education in Easton) raised over \$76,000 in 2003. These monies continue to fund many technology needs within our district, including the purchase of computer hardware and software. The parent advisory councils (PACS) in each of the seven school buildings continually raise substantial funds for curriculum enrichment programs. Easton's seven School Councils are composed of parents, teachers, and other community members, who devote countless hours to the development of individual School Improvement Plans. A number of parents and community members spent time in classrooms on a regular basis giving extra help to students. During Shadow Day, local

businesses allow high school students to spend a day visiting their companies and shadowing an employee, so that these students can better work in a particular field. Members of the Police and Fire Departments continue to provide a uniquely positive presence in our schools. Along with the teachers, the staff, the administration and the school committee, the citizens of Easton are indebted to these people. They generously contribute their talents and their time in the critically important task of educating our children.

The year 2003 marked the second year where the goals from the Strategic Planning Committee were used to set the goals for the individual School Councils to be included in their annual School Improvement Plan. Central Administration also included the prioritized goals in their yearly planning document.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Braun, Chair
Ellen Boyajian, Vice Chair
Dawn Boynton
Caroline S. O'Neill
Lennart K. Altieri

2003 REPORT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ralph Armstead, School Committee Member

The Southeastern Regional School District offers 20 vocational/technical training programs at its high school and five post-secondary programs at its technical institute. On October 1, 2003, 1,181 students were enrolled in the high school and 131 students were enrolled in the technical institute. Easton had 62 students enrolled in Southeastern.

Southeastern Regional continues to receive grants from a variety of state and federal sources that augment local funds to improve and expand the education services we provide. Southeastern's collaboration with MY TURN, a private non-profit organization based in Brockton, provides students with school-to-career activities.

The Southern Regional Education Board evaluated Southeastern Regional during November. The Technical Assistance Visit was conducted using the guidelines developed by High Schools That Work (HSTW) which is a nationally recognized school reform network. This school reform initiative is funded through three grants from the Massachusetts Department of Education under their Comprehensive School Reform program. The teacher-lead HSTW team developed an action plan for the next three years focusing on reading, writing, and mathematics and an Advisor/Advisee program. The goal of this plan is to increase MCAS scores for all students.

Southeastern Regional graduated 230 students, the highest number of graduates in the past ten years. Students from the Class of 2003 were required to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) for graduation. Ninety-seven percent of the class received diplomas after meeting this requirement. Placement records indicate that 92.5% of the Class of 2003 were placed in full-time jobs or had elected to pursue post secondary education.

Participation in Skills USA/VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), BPA (Business Professionals of America), and other student organizations, increased as we are looking for a very competitive year ahead where Southeastern students will be recognized for many outstanding achievements. For the first time in our history, a Southeastern student is a national officer for Skills USA/VICA.

Program Advisory Committees met in November to discuss and provide recommendations for curriculum, instruction and equipment improvements to allow each program to meet industry standards. These committees, made up of parents, students and industry representatives, met again in April to discuss their conclusions and make recommendations to the Southeastern Regional School District Committee. These recommendations are the basis for the continuing improvement of programs at Southeastern.

The Southeastern Technical Institute is currently operating five full-time day programs: Licensed Practical Nursing, Medical Assisting, Administrative Office Technology, Dental Assisting, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Our students represent all the Southeastern Regional School District communities and span a wide age range. The institute continues to enjoy a very high placement rate of 95%. Students are placed in full-time jobs with average salaries ranging from \$12.00-22.00 per hour.

The Evening School continues to grow with new programs, including Phlebotomy and A+ Certification. Classes range from one night seminars to two and three nights per week courses. Special computer courses for seniors are also offered. The Technical Institute is interested in expanding our customized training programs for business and industry.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
CASH BALANCES
JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003**

<i>Bank Accounts</i>	<i>Balance June 30, 2002</i>	<i>+Receipts</i>	<i>-Payments</i>	<i>Balance June 30, 2003</i>
Cash – includes general fund, Capitol projects, special revenues, Enterprise funds, and agency Funds	\$ 8,892,420.80	\$66,115,424.29	\$60,075,418.55	\$14,932,426.54
<i>Trust funds</i>				
Stabilization Fund	696,640.48	315,225.31		1,011,865.79
Conservation Fund	1,397,612.26	18,642.26	154,352.00	1,261,902.52
Unemployment Compensation	72,138.69	51,016.50	42,325.94	80,829.25
Pension Reserve Fund	483,213.56	5,161.47	130,181.00	358,194.03
Police Forfeiture Account	10,545.12	239.03		10,784.15
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	6,578.67			6,578.67
Mary Stone Library Fund	5,386.02	125.38		5,511.40
<i>Scholarship Funds</i>				
Ellen Atwood	2,257.68	49.68	250.00	2,057.36
Parker-Ames	88,299.06	2,905.58	5,000.00	86,204.64
Mary Stone	6,452.67	144.46	500.00	6,097.13
World War Memorial	52,274.55	2,213.53	1,900.00	52,588.08
Young	3,260.49	73.03	250.00	3,083.52
<i>Cemetery Perpetual Care Funds</i>				
Furnace Village Cemetery	21,533.80	501.29		22,035.09
Pine Grove Cemetery	3,722.93	86.67		3,809.60
Immaculate Conception	7,516.27	174.98		7,691.25
South Easton	9,789.95	227.90		10,017.85
Town Cemeteries	12,613.89	293.65		12,907.54
<i>Total Cash</i>	\$11,772,256.89	\$66,512,505.01	\$60,410,177.49	\$17,874,584.41

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
DEBT STATEMENT
JUNE 30, 2003**

AUTHORIZED AND UN-ISSUED DEBT

Date of Vote	Article No.	Purpose	Amount Authorized Rescinded	Issued Retired	Unissued June 30, 2003
4/10/95	15	Wells and Pumping Station	1,500,000.00	200,000.00	1,300,000.00
4/8/96	7	Library Remodeling	5,000,000.00	700,000.00	4,300,000.00
4/13/98	20	Rockery Grant (SAN)	64,000.00		64,000.00
5/11/98	60	MWPAT- Septic Loan Program	62,343.00		62,343.00
11/22/99	10	Water Mains	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00	-0-
11/22/99	15	Rockery Grant	100,000.00		100,000.00
6/4/01	8	Water Dept. Addition	150,000.00		150,000.00
5/20/02	23	Landfill Closure Phase 3	2,400,000.00	2,400,000.00	-0-
5/20/02	21	Water Mains	300,000.00	300,000.00	-0-
5/20/02	20	Water Ultraviolet Equipment	200,000.00		200,000.00
5/20/02	12	Library Access Road	400,000.00		400,000.00
01/13/03	22	School Construction	67,900,000.00	1,900,000.00	66,000,000.00
6/9/03	16	Capital Equipment/Road Work	1,120,000.00		<u>1,120,000.00</u>
Total Authorized and Un-Issued Debt					<u>73,696,343.00</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF TAX TITLE

Balance – June 30, 2002	\$463,261.24
Additions:	
Takings Through FY 03	32,809.43
Deductions:	
Redemptions	116,513.93
Abatement	<u>2,322.80</u>
Balance – June 30, 2003	<u>\$377,233.94</u>

**REPORT OF THE COLLECTOR
MOTOR VEHICLE RECEIPTS
JULY 1,2002 - JUNE 30,2003**

Levy of 2003	\$2,197,845
Levy of 2002	623,631
Levy of 2001	48,714
Levy of 2000	4,357
Levy of 1999	2,025
Levy of 1998	430
Levy of 1997	526
Levy of 1996	145
Levy of 1995	70
Levy of 1994	50
Levy of 1993	20
Levy of 1990	69
Levy of 1989	59
Levy of 1988	<u>200</u>

Total Collected \$2,878,141

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Nunes, CMMT
Town Collector

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

I hereby submit the report of the Town Accountant for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, which includes the balance sheet as of that date.

Our annual audit for the fiscal year is in process and will be completed shortly by Melanson, Heath & Company, PC of Andover, Massachusetts. The Town must implement a new financial reporting requirement for the first time this year known as "Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34" or GASB 34. GASB 34 will dramatically change the look of the Town's audited financial statements and is a nationwide requirement that municipalities must adhere to.

The annual year-end closing of the "books" as of June 30th went very smoothly. Financial Statements were prepared as of that date and submitted to the Department of Revenue for free cash certification in a timely manner.

I would especially like to thank Elizabeth Morgan and Adilia Collazo for all their hard work and dedication during the year. In addition, I thank all the Town Departments, Boards, Commissions and Committees for their cooperation and support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Nightingale
Town Accountant

TOWN OF EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
JUNE 30, 2003

ASSETS

	Governmental Fund Types		Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group	Total
	General	Special Revenue	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
Cash and cash equivalents	3,435,643.80	2,894,756.22	4,107,185.39	5,084,171.47	-	17,874,584.41
Receivables:						
Real estate taxes	427,806.65	12,924.04	-	-	-	440,730.69
Personal property taxes	18,206.65	-	-	-	-	18,206.65
Tax liens and foreclosures	564,475.34	-	-	-	-	564,475.34
Water user charges receivable	-	-	232,638.00	-	-	232,638.00
Water liens	-	-	7,550.45	-	-	7,550.45
Batterments	-	74,485.22	186,064.70	-	-	260,549.92
Motor vehicle excise and other excise	504,706.63	-	-	-	-	504,706.63
Departmental and other	280,425.29	102,897.81	-	-	-	383,423.10
Intergovernmental	149,017.00	471,370.62	-	-	-	620,387.62
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	48,850.34
Fixed assets, net	-	-	48,850.34	-	-	48,850.34
Other assets	5,273.06	-	29,852,974.00	-	-	29,852,974.00
Amount to be provided for payment of long-term obligations	-	-	-	-	-	5,273.06
Amount to be provided by the Commonwealth	-	-	-	-	-	28,078,124.22
Total Assets	5,385,554.42	3,556,533.91	4,107,185.39	5,084,171.47	28,078,124.22	78,892,474.43

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:						
Warrants payable	571,555.44	123,170.48	317,346.35	10,224.97	-	1,185,327.70
Accrued liabilities	549,260.29	21,098.58	-	1,900.00	-	585,398.87
Deferred revenue	1,795,620.56	661,777.69	-	186,064.70	-	2,643,462.95
Tax refunds payable	237,630.42	3,543.71	-	-	-	241,174.13
Deposits held in custody	110,177.00	-	-	2,133,652.63	-	2,243,829.63
Other liabilities	44,495.55	549.55	76,787.38	-	-	121,832.48
General long-term debt	-	-	-	-	28,078,124.22	32,109,728.12
Estimated landfill closure and postclosure liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	3,308,740.26	810,108.01	394,133.73	2,145,777.60	28,078,124.22	38,110,765.86
Fund Equity:						
Contributed capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retained earnings:						
Reserved	-	-	-	16,521,257.00	-	16,521,257.00
Unreserved	-	-	-	187,429.85	-	187,429.85
Fund Balances:						
Reserved for encumbrances	166,288.61	-	-	-	-	166,288.61
Reserved for continuing appropriations	340,023.80	397,681.20	-	-	-	737,701.00
Reserved for expenditures	144,713.09	62,521.91	-	-	-	207,235.00
Reserved for nonexpendable trust principal	-	-	-	74,295.69	-	74,295.69
Reserved for unexpended exempt debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for petty cash	400.00	2,000.00	-	-	-	2,400.00
Unassigned	(116,271.89)	-	-	-	-	-
Designated for snow & ice deficit	1,541,678.55	2,284,222.79	3,713,051.66	2,864,098.18	-	10,403,051.18
Unassigned	2,076,814.16	2,746,425.90	3,713,051.66	2,838,393.87	-	39,781,720.55
Total Fund Equity	5,385,554.42	3,556,533.91	4,107,185.39	5,084,171.47	28,078,124.22	78,892,474.43
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity						

REPORT OF ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit of the Books and Accounts of the Town of Easton for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2003 was made by Melanson Heath & Company, PC, Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

I would like to recognize Jack Flynn, Sign Maintenance Technician in the Highway Division, for sixteen years of service, Gerald Coletti, System Technician in the Water Division, for thirteen years of service, Bruce Morse, H.V.A.C. Technician in the Building and Grounds Division, for nine and a half years of service, John Ames, System Technician in the Water Division, for three years of service and Pamela Almeida, Record Account Clerk in the Water Division, for two and a half years of service. Their dedication and hard work will be greatly missed at the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Martha White, Town Administrator, and I have worked with the Landfill Committee, the consulting firm of Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. of Cambridge, MA and the construction contractor, E. T. & L. Corp. of Stow, MA to complete the capping of the Prospect Street Landfill. The installation of the active flare system to burn and pre-treat the gas by manifolding all the gas wells throughout the landfill into one automated vacuum system at the rear of the landfill has resulted in no odors since its start up. The Town will be responsible for monitoring air and ground water samples at the site and maintaining this twenty plus acres with mowing the top and side slopes at least once a year. Camp Dresser and McKee has been retained to provide weekly monitoring of the computerized flare system and will be on-call for emergency outages.

The D.P.W. continues to face cutbacks in personnel due to severe budget restraints. The Record Account Clerk position was eliminated and the office staff was restructured and consolidated with all office staff now working out of the Water Division office.

Bob Dunn of our Engineering Division was reassigned to the new Department of Land Use and Permitting as a Land Use Engineer, eliminating the D.P.W. Engineering Division entirely. These cutbacks have reduced the D.P.W. staff to thirty-two positions losing eleven positions in the past three years.

There must be serious considerations made to replace some of the lost positions at the D.P.W. to allow us to provide the much needed basic services of maintaining roads, sidewalks, trees, drainage, engineering, water, building and grounds maintenance and vehicle maintenance for our ever growing community.

Assistant School Superintendent, Dr. Michael Green, and Building and Grounds Supervisor, Paul O'Neill, have met with me on a weekly basis to discuss the maintenance schedule of the six school buildings and all athletic fields and playgrounds.

Dr. Green and I serve on the Municipal Building Committee, attending meetings which are being held twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at the Richardson/Olmsted School. Interaction with our maintenance staff will be intense during the three year school building and renovation project at the Junior High and High School.

From January to December 2003, the D.P.W. responded to thirty-two snow emergencies, seven storms that required plowing, with the most severe storm occurring on Friday evening, December 5, 2003 and lasting through Sunday evening, December 7, 2003. Twenty-two pieces of town owned equipment and twenty-five pieces of hired equipment were used throughout this storm. The national weather service reported 21.1 inches of snow in Easton with a water content of 3.25 inches, the greatest amount of any community reporting in the state. This storm ranked as the 11th worst storm on record for Boston and the 7th worst storm on record for Providence RI. Crews worked throughout the following week, clearing snow from sidewalks and intersections and trying to widen the narrow roads due to the extreme weight of the snow.

I am presently serving as Easton's delegate on the Old Colony Planning Council's Joint Transportation Committee that meets monthly in Brockton. Maurice Goulet serves as the alternate member.

We have two projects that are under design - Route #123, Depot Street from the five corners to Fox Ridge Road, is at the 75% design stage and listed on the FY 04 Transportation Improvement Program list with an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. We have hired the firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc to design improvements to route #123, Foundry Street from the Norton town line to Eastman Street, 8,751 feet. This project is at the 25% design stage with an estimated value of \$3.1 million.

We are also working with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in a PWED (The Public Works Economic Development Program) Grant Application for \$1 million to fund improvements to Foundry Street from the Five Corners to Eastman Street. Construction costs for these three projects would be federally funded.

Major Construction Projects Completed

Depot, Central and Purchase Streets – installation of 14, 023 feet of 12" ductile iron water main and the reconnection of 113 water services.

Purchase Street – The full length, 10,777 feet was reclaimed and paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Highland Street from Foundry Street to the Mansfield town line – 4,610 feet was paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Bay Road from Prospect Street to the Norton town line – 3,987 feet was paved with a new bituminous concrete wearing surface.

Elm Street from Main Street to Washington Street – 5,200 feet received drainage improvements, granite curbing and a new concrete sidewalk.

The D.P.W. filed the EPA Phase II Storm Water Permit with the MA Department of Environmental Protection and has begun the Educational Phase of the Plan. Informational flyers, prepared by the Southeastern Regional Services Group, will be mailed out with the next tax billing and Storm Water Management has been added to the Water Division's Educational Curriculum.

A Storm Water Management Article is being prepared for the next Annual Town Meeting to update the Zoning Bylaws.

Much effort has been put into the development of a vulnerability assessment of our entire water system as required by the Federal E.P.A. Security measures have been implemented at all of our drinking water supply facilities to insure against any threats to our water supply system.

Thanks to Jan Fowler for her continued donation of time and effort into the development and maintenance of our Demonstration Xeriscape Garden at 417 Bay Road.

I would like to thank my management team, Jack Marsh, John Fresh, Jr., James Luke, Paul O'Neill, and Maurice Goulet along with Robert Dunn from the Land Use & Permitting Department for their impact at our bi-weekly staff meetings and their commitment to undertake and complete all the construction projects that we dealt with throughout the year.

Shirley Tufts, Jan Jacobson, and Peggy Hannigan deserve much praise for undertaking additional tasks as the staff has been reduced, and for dealing with the ever increasing requests from the public for D.P.W. services.

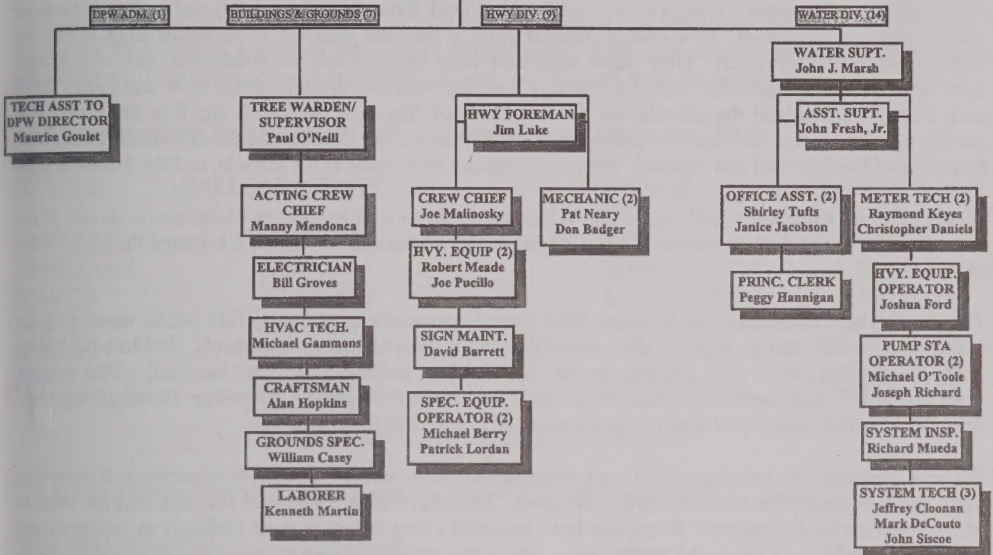
I am very proud of the entire D.P.W. staff and how they have all worked together as a team, accomplishing whatever tasks are requested of them. "Thank you"

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Southworth
Director of Public Works
508-230-0850
wsouthworth@easton.ma.us

DPW DIRECTOR
Wayne P. Southworth

TOTAL EMPLOYEES
32



2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING AND GROUNDS DIVISION

The Building and Grounds Division is continually doing work throughout the schools and town buildings to save energy and tax dollars. New energy efficient lighting has been installed at the Junior High School as well as emergency exit lights. New steam traps have been installed and the condensate tank and pumps have been rebuilt or replaced. Circulator pumps, heating coils and miscellaneous parts and filters have been changed throughout the schools, the Town Office building, and the Police and Fire Stations. The outside lighting around the Parkview School, the Easton Junior High School, and the Olmstead-Richardson School have been rewired and repaired. Minor roof repairs were made at the schools, and the Town Office.

Work orders for electrical, plumbing, H.V.A.C. and carpentry as well as moving equipment from one place to another for things such as elections, town meetings and graduation have been completed throughout the year.

The division also maintains twenty seven town owned cemeteries over twenty five public areas such as parks, playgrounds, and grass strips along sidewalks and bike paths and seven schools. We line the sports fields for sporting events (i. e. football, soccer, field hockey, softball, track, and baseball). This is done from March 15th when softball practice begins until the last football game is played on Thanksgiving Day. Two full time and several part time personnel are used to maintain these areas.

We have continued the maintenance of trees along the roadsides whenever possible trimming and removing dead, dying or dangerous trees throughout the town. Trees have been posted and hearings held for trees to be removed on town property. Brush has been removed along streets to help visibility at intersections, curves, and viewing of street and traffic signs. Trees that were damaged by wind and storms have been removed from the roads and brush has been chipped. Stumps have been ground down when the stump grinder is available to us. Holes have been loamed and seeded. Wood chips and firewood have been delivered to residents that have called and put their names on a waiting list. Trees have been posted and removed from the rockery due to Hemlock Wooley Adelgid and the rockery restoration project.

The Building and Grounds Division assists the Highway and the Water Divisions whenever needed. We assist with cleaning and preparing the town pool for the Recreation Department, cutting brush for the Conservation Commission, and snow removal and sanding for the Highway Division. Whenever possible we assist organizations such as the Lyons Club with the Christmas tree at the rockery and providing firewood for Yardley Wood Skating Rink.

In the past year the Building and Grounds Division has lost three very dedicated employees. Alfred Arthur, a Craftsman for the division has undergone back surgery due to a work related injury, Bruce Morse, the H.V.A.C. Technician, has relocated in Maine and Ken Martin, a laborer for the division has retired after thirty four years of dedicated service. These men were all a great asset to the town. I would also like to thank Alan Hopkins formerly of the Highway Division who transferred to take Alfred Arthur's position and Mike Gammons who took over the H.V.A.C. position. Both employees are professional and have worked out very well. The division wishes Alfred, Bruce and Ken the very best for the future and we hope to see them often.

I would like to thank the rest of the crew: Bill Groves, the Electrician, Manny Mendonca, the Craftsman and Bill Casey, the Grounds Specialist/Aerial Lift Operator for their ideas, dedication and professionalism towards their jobs. My appreciation goes out to the other departments as well and the secretarial staff for all the help I receive during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul O'Neill
Tree Warden/Supervisor

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON WATER DIVISION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Easton Water Division is dedicated to providing, protecting and preserving today's water supplies for tomorrow's consumers. Our commitment is to supply quality water that complies with all State & Federal standards, provide education and excellent customer service, and to be the leaders of our profession.

I respectfully submit the following report and pumping record for the year 2003.

MONTH	GALLONS PUMPED	MONTH	GALLONS PUMPED
JANUARY	57,685,220	JULY	84,240,227
FEBRUARY	52,470,000	AUGUST	76,857,002
MARCH	57,340,630	SEPTEMBER	70,251,000
APRIL	62,644,799	OCTOBER	55,083,000
MAY	61,706,671	NOVEMBER	48,743,000
JUNE	64,959,781	DECEMBER	48,687,000

Total gallons pumped in 2003 – 740,668,330

The greatest amount pumped in one day was 3,663,477 gallons on 7/8/2003

Total 2003 Precipitation was 56.30 inches.

The Water Division responded to 2,509 service and emergency calls:

Connected 85 new services for a total of 6,930 active services

Replaced 559 meters

Renewed 5 services

Repaired 14 service leaks

Repaired 22 broken water mains

2 - 6" mains 16 - 8" mains 2 - 10" mains 2 - 12" mains

In 2003, new subdivisions and water main improvements added to our system:

200' of 4" water main

3,671' of 8" water main

10,923' of 12" water main

31 new fire hydrants

We now have a total of 157.5 miles of water mains, 1,393 hydrants and 2,980 valves in our system.

The Water Division read 14,022 meters, prepared and processed the bills for mailing;

4,188 delinquent notices were mailed and 300 final bills were calculated.

This completed the fifteenth year of our Backflow Prevention Program. Since 1989, we have conducted 269 surveys of facilities to ensure appropriate backflow prevention devices. This year 8 commercial buildings were surveyed. We have 238 testable devices in the system, 138 double check valve assemblies, 100 reduced pressure zone backflow preventers and 13 non-required devices. This year 290 backflow prevention device tests were performed.

In order to meet the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act,
630 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis
6 nitrate analysis
1 nitrite
2 lead and copper
4 routine chemical analysis
6 secondary contaminants analysis
6 volatile organic compounds analysis
1,600 pH samples
1,292 chlorine residual tests
16 Trihalomethane
6 Gross Alpha
6 Radium 228
11 IOC
7 SOC

We continue to survey the water system for leaks using conventional and digital correlation technology. We have completed 18 system-wide leak surveys to date. This program enables us to maintain low unaccounted-for water.

The Depot Street/Purchase Street water main project was completed. After all water construction was completed, the roadway was reconstructed using water revenue. This project has improved water quality, fire flows and road conditions for the area residents, as well as the general public.

This year we performed our 10th consecutive year of system-wide uni-directional flushing program. This program cleans all sediments from the water mains and helps ensure the delivery of safe, clean water to your tap.

The staff continues to educate our peers, students, and the public on conservation and Water Works education. We have given numerous presentations to Water Works organizations, provided tours and training to Stonehill College Ecology Class, Brownie and Girl Scout troops, Children's Museum Science Camp, and Natural Resources Trust 6th Grade watershed classes, as well as holding the Annual Open House.

The meeting room at the Easton Water Division office at 417 Bay Road continues to be in high demand, as virtually the only town meeting room, and it was utilized 52 times during the year for both daytime and nighttime meetings and training sessions.

We conducted a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on May 10, 2003 with 622 residents participating at a cost of \$17,969.32 to the Town. I would also like to thank the Easton Lions Club for their effort in assisting this event with the collection of TV's, computer monitors, and white goods.

The ultraviolet disinfection systems for each of the 6 pumping stations were awarded to Nuwater Inc. of Seekonk MA. The installation is almost complete with startup anticipated for March of 2004. When this project is completed we would anticipate reducing or eliminating the amount of chlorine administered at each one of our sources.

The Water Division hosted its 19th Annual Open House on Saturday, May 3, 2003 with the highlight being the Award Ceremony of our Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. Hundreds of posters are judged from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. This contest could not be possible without the excellent cooperation of the Easton school system—especially, Dr. Simmons, Arnie Casavant, Achim Krasenbrink, Margaret Moran, and Susan Masse of the Art Department. This contest provides a perfect medium to educate the students to the value of water and the need to protect it.

The Water Division continues to remain leaders in the water works industry. Our employees are dedicated and committed to their jobs. As a manager, it is certainly rewarding to have employees of this caliber and I would like to personally thank all of them for their continued efforts: Shirley Tufts, Peggy Hannigan, Janice Jacobson, John Fresh, Jr., Raymond Keys, Richard Mueda, Joshua Ford, Joseph Richard, Christopher Daniels, Michael O'Toole, Jeffery Cloonan, Mark DeCouto and John Siscoe.

"With Water Works Pride"

John J. Marsh
508-230-0850
jmarsh@easton.ma.us

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee held 10 meetings during the year. The meetings are rotated within one of the five Member Communities of Easton, Sharon, Foxborough, Mansfield, and Norton

The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The March 6, 2003 meeting at the Foxborough Town Hall was cancelled due to a snow storm.

Wayne Southworth gave a presentation at Stonehill College to Professor Maura Terrel's Biology class regarding the achievements of the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee's efforts in protecting the aquifer on a regional basis.

The committee held the Annual Awareness Day on Saturday, May 24, 2003 at the Mansfield Fish & Game Club. The featured speakers were J. Browline of the E.P.A. who spoke on storm water management and Taryn LaScola of the Mass. Department of Food & Agriculture/Pesticide Bureau, discussing their Water/Well Being Program on responsible pesticide and fertilizer use.

The committee presented member Leonard Flynn with a plaque in dedication of his tireless efforts in developing the Canoe River Green Belt Project and especially his devotion to returning 126 acres of Massachusetts Department of Public Works land in Norton along the Canoe River, to a protected status by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The countless letters and communication with state legislators and officials has taken much of his time. Leonard's dedication and achievements will pay tremendous dividends for generations to come, enabling them to enjoy this very unique natural resource.

The committee sponsored an Organic Land Care presentation on June 11, 2003 at the Easton Water Division, given by Marilyn Castriotta, the NOFA/Mass Organic Land Care Program coordinator.

Marty Greenstein of the New England Rain Barrel Company conducted a program in the five towns, selling 109 barrels.

A final presentation was given to the committee by Neil Price, Tom Lee, and Patti Dailey of Horsley & Whitten, Inc. on the Canoe River Aquifer Resource Study. The study was funded by the MA D.E.P. Each community received a CD and paper copy of the report.

Fred Martin gave a presentation to the committee on the proposed 40B project in Sharon, which is near the King Philip's Cave Archaeological Site. The committee sent a letter to the Town of Sharon regarding their concerns of this project.

Jen Carlino requested that the committee conduct a habitat study of the aquifer. Diane Boretos from Call of the Wild gave a presentation on this process. The committee agreed to pursue this as a project for next year.

Pat Huckery of National Heritage, Jan Drake, D.E.P. and Linda Marler of E.O.E.A. met with the committee to discuss their concerns of some of the endangered species within the aquifer.

Taryn LaScola of the Mass. Department of Food & Agriculture continued to work with our Committee, attending many meetings within the five communities and setting up displays throughout the year at a variety of seminars and events. She developed a helpful manual "*Water Well-Being*" which provides information about responsible pesticide and fertilizer use. Funding for this booklet was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Source Water Assessment Program. Their new Website is www.mass.gov/waterwellbeing.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Southworth, Chairman
wsouthworth@easton.ma.us

NOTICE

THE CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 P.M., IN ONE OF THE TOWNS OF EASTON, MANSFIELD, NORTON, FOXBOROUGH, OR SHARON.

THE FOLLOWING 2004 SCHEDULE IS PLANNED:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004	SHARON TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004	FOXBOROUGH TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004	NORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004	MANSFIELD TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2004	EASTON WATER DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004	SHARON TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2004	FOXBOROUGH TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004	NORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2004	MANSFIELD TOWN HALL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2004	EASTON WATER DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004	SHARON TOWN HALL

Present Membership

Norton

Susan Mims
Frederick Watson
Suzanne Erikson

Foxborough

Robert W. Boette
Joan F. Sozio
Leo Potter

Sharon

Gregory Meister
Patrick Dorcus
Dave Masciarelli

Easton

Philip Barske
William Hardin
Wayne P. Southworth

Mansfield

Edward Tartufo
Leonard F. Flynn

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Water Resource Advisory Commission is charged with the responsibility of advising the town on the adequacy in quantity and quality of the public water supply. The commission is also responsible for recommendations about acquiring land, surface water, and ground water within the town, as well as land or easements necessary to collect, store, purify, and treat water supplies. All of these responsibilities are being handled extremely well by the Easton Water Division.

The commission met during the year on an as needed basis. Superintendent, John Marsh, met with us to keep us informed on Water Division issues:

- Ultraviolet System
- Purchase Street Water Main
- Well #7 Update
- Desalination Project
- Chestnut Street Water Main
- Water Rate Study
- Master Plan Update
- Storm Water Management Program

We would like to thank John Marsh, Water Superintendent, for his input and continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley E. Tufts, Chair
508-230-0850
e-mail - stufts@easton.ma.us

Water Resource Advisory Commission Members
James D. Mullen, Jr.
Eugene Packer

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

I hereby submit to you the annual report of the Office of the Inspector of Buildings and Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Single Family Dwellings	73
Multiple Family Dwellings	1
Additions-Residential	83
Alterations-Residential	144
New Commercial	4
Additions-Commercial	4
Alterations-Commercial	36
Demolished Buildings	15
Signs	33
Temporary Signs	14
Swimming Pools	41
Roofs	94
Siding	43
Temporary Tents	18
Earth Removal	1
Wood Stoves	10
Yard Sales	84
Foundations	36
Temporary Trailer	1
Certificate of Inspections	43
Certificate of Occupancy	81

TOTAL

TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION:	\$ 30,257,019.00
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Total Building Fees Collected		\$ 298,946.00
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Total Number of Daily Building Inspections	815	
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Total Number of Wiring Fees Collected		\$ 39,553.65
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Total Number of Wiring Permits Issued	628	
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Total Number of Gas Fees Collected		\$ 17,570.00
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Total Number of Gas Permits Issued	313	
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Total Number of Plumbing Fees Collected		\$ 33,085.00
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Total Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	360	
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Total Number of Mechanical Fees Collected		\$ 2,205.00
---	--	-------------

Total Number of Mechanical Permits Issued	33	
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Total Fees Collected for the Year 2003	\$ 391,359.65
--	---------------

Telephone: 508-230-0580 Fax: 508-230-0589 email: mtrivett@easton.ma.us
sgreiner@easton.ma.us
sheath@easton.ma.us

Office Hours: Monday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 pm.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Town Office Closed to the Public
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Susan Heath, Building Department Secretary
D. Mark Trivett, C.B.O., Inspector of Buildings, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Paul DeBaggis, Local Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Albert K. Greiner, Electrical Inspector
Robert Govey, Plumbing and Gas Inspector
Carol J. Mandeville, Board of Appeals Secretary
John F. Amorim, Assistant Electrical Inspector
Bart Carlson, Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Responsibilities:

- Provide highest level of service to protect and support residents and those doing business in Easton through effective enforcement of State Building Codes and Town By-Laws.
- Perform plan reviews and issue permits for building, plumbing, gas, electrical, roofing, siding, replacement windows, pools, signs, wood stoves, HVAC systems, fire protection systems and demolition work.
- Provide prompt, fair and accurate inspections related to each permit.
- Issue certificates of occupancy upon completion of a project.
- Inspect and certify buildings, businesses and occupancies related to annual licensing and code requirements.
- Investigate complaints and zoning violations. Determine zoning compliance.

There were 73 building permits issued for new single-family homes in 2003, a decrease from 109 permits in the year 2002. There was a sharp decline in the number of permits issued for residential additions and a slight decline in the number of permits for residential alterations. The total estimated cost of residential construction in the year 2003 was \$25,690,331 as compared to \$28,064,202 in the year 2002.

Commercial construction activity experienced a downturn from \$16,388,652 of estimated construction cost in 2002 to a total of \$4,614,709 this past year. Most of the commercial work involved alterations to existing buildings and tenant fit-ups.

Wiring, plumbing, gas and mechanical permit revenues dropped from \$129,423 in 2002 to \$92,413 in 2003

Total estimated cost of construction totaled \$30,257,019 in the past year, down from \$44,452,854 in 2002. The Building Department collected fees in the amount of \$391,359 as compared to \$521,135 in 2002.

Again I would like to thank a dedicated and talented staff and all Town Departments for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Mark Trivett, CBO
Inspector of Buildings
Zoning Enforcement Officer

2003 REPORT OF THE EASTON PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

We hereby submit the following report for the Year 2003 for the Easton Planning & Zoning Board. The Board continues to work responsibly with administration and implementation of the Flexible Development Zoning By Laws adopted at Town Meeting in February 2000. These particular zoning by-laws allow Adult Retirement Developments, Open Space Residential Developments, Residential Compounds, Estate Lots and Common Driveways. These creative land planning and growth management tools have assisted with meeting the following community objectives:

- Encouraging more environmentally sensitive development;
- Preserving larger tracts of open space within or adjacent to new developments;
- Preserving Easton's remaining rural character;
- Minimizing long-term operating costs to the town through the approval of more private ways;
- Reducing the number of driveway cuts on a way thereby minimizing any public safety threat.

The Planning and Zoning Board, acting as Special Permit Granting Authority, approved or considered thirteen (13) separate Flexible Development applications, three (3) of which were withdrawn without prejudice for various reasons. In addition, five (5) separate modifications to flexible development applications were approved. This included two (2) separate common driveway applications intended to help reduce the number of access points to a public way thereby promoting public safety. One common driveway application was pending at the end of 2003 (North Easton Grammar School). Another common driveway application was denied (Gatehouse Drive / 25 Center Street). One (1) estate lot was approved which will allow more environmentally sensitive development to the tract of land located at 201 Massapoag Avenue. Two (2) Open Space Residential Development applications were heard by the Board. One is still pending (Mayflower Estates). One was withdrawn without prejudice (Stoney Point Estates). Two (2) modifications were made to existing Open Space Residential Developments (Dorchester Brook Estates; Lone Oak Farms). An Open Space Residential Development presents an alternative to a conventional subdivision where open space can be preserved and sensitive resources protected while generally maintaining the same number of houses found in a conventional subdivision. Seven (7) Residential Compound applications were submitted in 2003. Two (2) were approved (Stillwater Creek Lane; Barg Farm Estates). Three (3) are still pending (Donadalila Terrace; Hidden Acres; and Efron Estates). Two (2) applications were withdrawn without prejudice (initial submittals of Barg Farm Estates; Efron Estates). This type of development consists of 60,000 square foot lots which is larger than that normally required (i.e. 40,000 sq. ft.). Residential Compounds also have smaller, privately maintained roads. The net result from a development of this type is a smaller number of houses being built when compared to a conventional subdivision.

One (1) Adult Retirement Development representing a total of forty-eight (48) proposed lots was approved in 2003 (Golden Oaks). An "ARD" or "over 55 " Adult Retirement Development represents a fiscally responsive type of development which lessens the burden on the Town in terms of providing some essential services (Example: privately maintained roads; no school-age children). Finally, the Board heard five (5) applications relating to modifications to existing Special Permits. These modifications included zoning setback and drainage issues.

In 2003, the Board met a total of twenty-four (24) times on Wednesday nights. The Board also had site walks or a special meeting at a proposed development five times during the year. In addition to the Special Permit Applications, the Board addressed Approval Not Required Plans, Definitive Subdivision Plans and Site Plan Applications.

Twelve (12) "Form A – Approval Not Required Plans were endorsed. These plans represent potential building lots which have adequate frontage on an existing way that did not require approval under the Subdivision Control Law (MGL, Chapter 41). Some of these plans created new lots and others combined existing lots into one.

Twelve (12) Definitive Subdivision Plans were approved or pending at the end of the year. Ten (10) of these plans were submitted in conjunction with Special Permit applications (Residential Compounds; Open Space Residential Developments; Adult Retirement Developments). They included Golden Oaks; Barg Farm Estates; Stillwater Creek, Mayflower Estates; Stoney Point Estates; Hidden Acres; Efron Estates and Donadalila Terrace.

Three (3) Preliminary Subdivision Plans were approved by the Board (Highland Plaza; Blue Heron Run; Hidden Acres).

Twelve (12) Site Plans were approved or reviewed in 2003. They included: 25 Washington Street (Lot 4); 502 Foundry Street; 180 Main Street; 11 Center Street; 75 Eastman Street, 25 Washington Street (Lots 1 & 2); Shaws Glass; Roosevelt Circle (Lot 2); Shaw's Supermarket; North Easton Grammar School. The Highlands Plaza site plan application was still pending at the end of 2003.

Additional Board and Staff time was spent on the following types of business:

- Public Hearings – Acceptance of Streets
- Public Hearings – Modification of Previously Approved Definitive Subdivisions
- Public Hearings - Modification of Previously Approved Special Permits
- Public Hearings – Amendments to the Zoning Map and Zoning By Law
- Release of Surety for Completion of Roadways and Related Improvements
- Recommendations on cases to be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Commenting on License Renewal applications pending before the Board of Selectmen
- Working with developers to complete Unfinished Roads
- Administration and follow-up related to the implementation of Special Permit Approvals
- Meeting with Potential Development Applicants
- Actively participating in Development Review Committee Meetings
- Monitoring proposed Smart Growth Legislation dealing with Land Use / Zoning Reform
- Advocating and implementing improvements to the Planning Process

We are most fortunate to have the top quality planner that the Town has provided for the Planning and Zoning Board. Town Planner Marc R. Rousseau, AICP is a dedicated, hardworking professional performing outstanding public service. In addition, the Planning and Zoning Board would like to thank Cheryll-Ann Senior, part-time Recording Secretary, for the excellent administrative support she provides to the Board and Town Planner. Also, the Board expresses its sincere gratitude to Town Administrator Martha L. White for all of her professional assistance, the Board of Selectmen, the various Town Departments, Boards and Commissions for their cooperation and support and most importantly, to the citizens of Easton for their support and cooperation as we attempt to perform our statutory responsibilities.

In closing, any fellow citizen of Easton wishing to discuss an issue of concern may communicate this matter by calling the Planning & Zoning Board Office at 508-230-0630 or by contacting the Town Planner by Email at MROUSSEAU@EASTON.MA.US. The Board also maintains an Internet presence on the Town of Easton web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Kone, Chairman
Colin W. Gillis, Esq., Clerk
Mark S. Bartlett, P.E., Member
Christine M. Santoro, Esq., Member
Walter H. Johnson, R.M.E., Member
Amanda Buck Varella, Esq., Alternate Member

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS

We, the members of the Board of Appeals respectfully submit the following annual report for the year 2003.

The Board of Appeal's responsibilities are to hear applications filed for Special Permits, Variances and Administrative Appeals pursuant to Chapter 40A, Mass. General Laws. Forty (40) petitions, comprised of fifteen (15) Variances; twenty-three(23) Special Permits; one (1) Comprehensive Permit; and one (1) Administrative Appeal were received by the Board of Appeals during the year, which in conformity with the law, were duly advertised and copies of notices were given to all Town Boards and mailed to all parties of interest as defined in Section 11, Chapter 40A, Mass. General Laws.

In 2003, Brian T. O'Neill, Jr., Stephen Freitas and Stephen Pinzari resigned from their positions on the Board of Appeals. The Board of Selectmen appointed August Gangi and Charles King as full Board members. Tom Pursley and Christopher Pike were appointed by the board as Alternate Members.

The Board of Appeals would like to thank Brian T. O'Neill, Jr., Stephen Freitas and Stephen Pinzari for their contributions to the Board during their tenure.

	<u>Comprehensive Permit</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Special Permit</u>	<u>Administrative Appeal</u>
Petitions Granted		15	23	1
Petitions Denied		2	0	
Petitions Withdrawn/Dismissed		1	1	
Chapter 40B	1			
Continued to 2004		3		
To Be Heard in 2004		1	2	

The Board wishes to recognize and commend all Town Officials and personnel who provided assistance to the Board during the year.

The Board of Appeals Secretary can be reached at the Town Offices at (508)230-0590.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Mirrione, Chairman
John Tupper, Vice-Chairman
Charles King, Clerk
August Gangi
Steven H. Johnson
Thomas Pursley, Alternate
Christopher Pike, Alternate

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON BOARD OF HEALTH

In compliance with the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is our pleasure to herewith submit to you a summary of the work done under the Board of Health for the year 2003.

Dr. Roger M. Kligler was elected to a three-year term at the annual election in April. Robert J. Kane was elected Chairman. Staff included Director of Public Health Wade D. Saucier, R.S., C.H.O., Assistant Health Director Kristin C. Kennedy, R.S., Food Inspector Hank Tartaglia, Administrative Assistant/Burial Agent Jo A. Pilz, Clerk/Burial Agent Teresa M. Wooding, Animal Inspector John D. Melin and Animal Inspector Elizabeth J. DeRosa. Ms. Kennedy received a promotion from Health Inspector to the position of Assistant Health Director. We all congratulate her on this well-deserved grade and title promotion. Mr. Saucier and Ms. Kennedy maintained their education requirements for their state licenses by attending numerous professional education classes throughout the year. Mr. Kane, Mr. Heino and Dr. Kligler attended an annual certification seminar for Boards of Health. This seminar educated the Board members on public health issues and laws.

The Board of Health met 27 times in public meeting forum this year.

The Board of Health responsibilities are numerous, varied and focused on overall community health. Our responsibilities can be viewed on our website. www.easton.ma for your convenience.

Initial steps towards the implementation of a stroke program to aid in the survival of stroke victims were taken this year. The program, a joint effort of the Board of Health, Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center and the Fire Department, will focus on early recognition and response to symptoms of stroke and on life-saving treatment. Finalization of the program and its inception will hopefully take place in early 2004.

Public health nursing services were provided by contractual agreement with Health Care Options, Inc., an affiliate of Community Visiting Nurse Agency (CVNA) of Attleboro. Chris Delano, R.N., the town's contact nurse, provided the Board with excellent service and professional advice throughout the year. The cumulative statistics for the 2003 calendar year are as follows: Total Immunizations, 497 residents, including 474 influenza immunizations; Mantoux testing, 3 residents; Lead Level Screening, 0; Health Promotion Clinics, 347 residents including 247 residents for Blood Pressure, 70 for Blood Sugar and 30 for Total Cholesterol Screening; Communicable Disease, 49 investigations; Maternal Child, 0 contacts. The CVNA also served as the vaccine distribution center to a number of providers within the community for the Board of Health. We also provided a public health nurse for one hour each month (every fourth Monday), at the Town Offices, for town residents or employees. The nurse is available for Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar screenings and information regarding your health or the health of your loved ones.

On June 9, 2003, the Board of Health adopted Regulations for Management of Manure and Waste from Domestic Animals. The purpose for the manure and waste management regulation is to provide a method for animal owners to handle accumulated manure and other wastes in a safe and sanitary manner. The regulation addressed composting practices, storage practices, and removal of manure and other wastes related to the keeping of domestic animals. The regulation took effect on June 16, 2003.

The rabies epizootic still exists in town. Preventative measures to protect your domestic pets are advised. In the spring of 2003, two rabies clinics were held. On April 6, 2003, 87 dogs and 41 cats were vaccinated. On April 27, 2003, 78 dogs and 19 cats were vaccinated. A total of 225 animals were vaccinated by the program. The State of Massachusetts requires that all dogs and cats be vaccinated for rabies.

The West Nile Virus (WNV) and the Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV) are both a public health concern. State wide, for the West Nile Virus, there were 16 human cases, 429 birds, 8 horses and 48

mosquitoes that had tested positive for the virus. At the local level 19 birds were reported, 3 birds were submitted to the state lab and 2 birds tested positive. For the Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus, state wide, there were 9 mosquitoes and 5 horses that were confirmed as positive cases. At the local level, no cases were confirmed. Both viruses are passed on from the bird population to the mosquito. The virus is then passed on to the mosquito's next host(s), human or animal, when the female mosquito draws blood for her eggs to develop inside her. As a preventative measure to control the viruses, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project offers an adult mosquito spraying program each spring which continues throughout the summer months. The spraying is done on request by either local residents or city/town officials. The telephone number for Bristol County Mosquito Control is 508-823-5253.

There were 671 permits issued by the Board of Health. The breakdown is as follows: Body Art Practitioner, 2; Camps/Motels/Trailer Parks, 7; Caterers, 7; Dumpsters, 150; Dumpster Service, 10; Food Establishments, 141; Funeral Directors, 3; Disposal System Construction Permits, 198; Disposal Works Installer Permits, 64; Massage Licenses, 18; Mobile Food, 3; Outdoor Facilities, 0; Swimming Pools, 11; Tanning Facilities, 4; Tobacco Sales Permits, 30; and Transport Offal, 23.

The office logged 36 valid complaints from the general public. If you have any questions, concerns, need advice or information, you may reach our office at 508-230-0620.

The Board appreciates the cooperation of the various town boards and departments and continues to work closely with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies of the Commonwealth.

The Board wishes to dedicate this year's Annual Report to William A. Grimes. Mr. Grimes served on the Board of Health for the past twelve years. His expertise in the public health field provided the Board members and the community at large with exemplary service and advice. Mr. Grimes' input and friendship will be missed by his colleagues and office staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Kane, Chairman
Gil A. Heino
Dr. Roger M. Kligler

EASTON BOARD OF HEALTH

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Easton Conservation Commission is charged with the responsibilities of administering the State Wetlands Protection Act (Mass. General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40 et seq.) and the Town of Easton Wetlands Protection By-Law (Chapter 227 of the Code of the Town of Easton), and regulations promulgated thereunder. Additionally, the Commission is given primary responsibility for Open Space Planning and preservation, and controls all of the open space land held for conservation purposes by the Town. In the past year, the Town has begun the process of merging the various land use permitting agencies of the Town into the newly created Land Use and Permitting Department. As this transition continues to develop, it is hoped that the operations of all affected boards and commissions will be better understood by, and more easily utilized by, those who come before us.

The first set of responsibilities is primarily performed through the public hearing process, where applicants come to seek permission for activities which fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission, which would include all wetlands resources (as defined in each Act) and the buffer zones thereto. During the year 2003, the Commission conducted 88 public hearings (an increase from the previous year) and 120 continued public hearings (relatively unchanged from the previous year).

Additionally, there were 9 enforcement actions commenced, which are the consequence of a report of an alleged violation of the Wetlands Protection Act or By-Law. These matters can often be resolved amicably with the cooperation of all parties, but do, on occasion, result in litigation and/or the imposition of fines, sometimes utilizing the Non-Criminal Disposition provisions of the Town By-Law. The ultimate goal of enforcement activity is restoration of the altered areas, and education so that such incidents do not occur in the future. Often, they arise out of a lack of familiarity with the laws which apply, and the Commission tries hard to work with individual homeowners to resolve these matters as easily as possible.

The Commission continues its open space acquisition efforts. With the continued heavy pace of residential development, the Town must take every opportunity to protect those open spaces which have been identified as being of prime concern. These acquisitions can take the form of outright purchase, or can arise with gifts of land. Every five years, the Commission updates the Open Space and Recreation Plan of the Town, which prioritizes open space acquisitions. Citizens are welcome to come to the Commission office, and view this plan, for additional information on the goals and objectives of open space land acquisition.

During 2003, the Commission acquired:

1. A gift of land from Oliver F. and Esther D. Ames, consisting of 19.235 acres, which protects a major portion of Langwater Pond and the vista from Pond Street.
2. A purchase of land from Gloria J. Freitas, Trustee of the Louis F. Freitas Revocable Trust, at 57R Allen Road, consisting of 12.7 acres, which abuts Conservation Commission controlled land.
3. A gift of land from Richard Costa, Trustee of Marshal Realty Trust, consisting of 33.43 acres of land, which will protect major wetlands associated with Monte Pond and Dorchester Brook.
4. A gift of land from Muhammad M. Itani, Trustee of Stonerbridge Land Development Trust, consisting of 70.7 acres, which is located within an estimated habitat area and is located within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This gift also abuts the northeastern boundary of the Wheaton Farm area.

5. A gift from Charles M. Mirrione, Trustee of Fox Hill Realty Trust, consisting of 16.2 acres, which will protect portions of the Beaver Brook, its associated wetlands and flood plain plus abuts open space owned by the Natural Resources Trust to the west.
6. A gift of land from Louis A. Vazza at 288 Depot Street, consisting of 5.5 acres, which is within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern and contains an estimated habitat of rare wildlife.
7. A gift of land from Theresa Pacella at 80R Mill Street, consisting of 24.20 acres, which is located within an estimated habitat area and is located within the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

During the past year, longtime member John E. Grant and new member Patricia A. Haederle were re-appointed to three year terms. Additionally, Jonathan D. Chace was appointed by the Commission as an Associate Member, working on issues related to open space management.

Citizens are most welcome to use the Conservation Commission website, www.conservationcommission.org, where much useful information about the workings of the Commission may be found, as well as useful links to other environmentally related sites. We welcome suggestions for the ongoing improvement of this website, to make it as user-friendly to the townspeople as possible.

Ongoing training of Commission members continues. Our Vice-Chairman, Barry DunKley, is one of the first graduates of the Advanced Training Program offered by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

The Commission can be reached via email, through our website as listed above, or via phone at (508) 230-0640. Commission meetings are held on alternate Monday evenings, and the schedule may be found on the website. All meetings are open to the public, except for Executive Sessions, and town residents are always most welcome to attend.

The professional staff, which the Town has provided to the Commission, continues to perform at outstanding levels. We are most grateful for the efforts of Janice Fowler, Commission Secretary, and Robert G. Dunn, Land Use Engineering Assistant. The Commission is also grateful to its legal counsel, to the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, and all the appointed and elected Boards and Commissions of the Town, with whom we work most effectively. We are particularly grateful to the people of the Town of Easton, who support our efforts so fully, and who continue to work so hard on the issues of open space protection and preservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Sites, Chairman

(msites@conservationcommission.org)

Barry R. DunKley, Vice Chairman

(bdunkley@conservationcommission.org)

John E. Grant

(jgrant@conservationcommission.org)

Patricia E. Somers

(psomers@conservationcommission.org)

Patricia A. Haederle

(phaederle@conservationcommission.org)

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT

During 2003 the Town of Easton's Veterans' Services Department assisted over 225 veterans and/or their dependents.

Twenty-two veterans and/or their dependents received \$102,190 in financial assistance for household and medical expenses under Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws. This assistance program is open to low income Easton veterans or their dependents who meet the income and asset guidelines that are established by the Commissioner of Veterans' Services. The veterans' benefits issued by the Town of Easton during 2003 were paid from local appropriation. The State will reimburse the Town for 75% of the veterans' benefits issued. In addition to this Benefits Program, Chapter 115 also provided an Annual Annuity of \$1,500 to 33 disabled veterans or their dependents paid by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. Certain 100% service-connected disabled veterans, Gold Star parents, and Gold Star spouses are eligible for this annuity program. Applications are available at this Veterans' Services Department.

The Veterans Administration estimates that veterans from the Town of Easton received over \$ 2,180,000 in federal benefits last year. This office filed 15 new claims last year with the Veterans Administration and those veterans received a total of \$ 212,000 in federal benefits.

With the help of Easton's veterans' groups and fraternal organizations the Veterans' Services Department was able to assist over twenty veterans with a variety of projects including home repairs, moving household items, and hospital transportation.

This office was involved with other town employees in starting Operation Mailcall. The purpose of this organization is to help insure that Easton citizens serving in the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq know how grateful we are for their service.

Other services provided to the veterans of Easton include help in obtaining separation papers, service medals, property tax exemptions, and fuel assistance.

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Administrator, members of the American Legion Post #7, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2547, and the residents and businesses of Easton for their continued support of our veterans.

Semper Fi

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Nolan
Director of Veterans' Services

2003 REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The Animal Inspectors are responsible for issuing quarantines on all animal bites issuing confinement notices for any domestic pet that has been treated for a wound of unknown origin, conducting animal census, checking the care and handling of domestic livestock and other domestic animals which we have as pets. At the local level we work with the Board of Health and practicing veterinarians. We also work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Environmental Police and the MSPCA. These departments throughout the year conduct seminars to help us to expand our knowledge in the dealing with domestic animals and urban wildlife. We may be reached by calling 508-230-3353 or 508-230-0620.

Six cats and one dog were placed under quarantine confinement for possible exposure to rabies for wounds of unknown origin as a result of exposure to wildlife or a high-risk domestic animals. Six birds were sent to the State Lab to be tested for the West Nile Virus. There were twenty animal bites from eighteen dogs and two cats. They were placed under ten day quarantine. Eight animals were submitted to The State Lab to be tested for rabies. They included two bats, one cat, two dogs, one squirrel, one fox and one woodchuck. We had one bat that tested positive for rabies

Animal inspection census: Thirty-eight horses, 13 goats, forty-four beef cattle, one hundred forty-eight chickens, eight sheep, two oxen, one llama, four rabbits fifteen swine. Two hundred and twenty-six dead animals and birds were picked up off our public roads. They were twenty-four skunks' thirty-two cats, thirty-one raccoons, thirty-seven deer, twenty-seven squirrels, seven foxes, eight opossums, five dogs, one fisher, four bats, two geese, three hawks, four coyotes, three woodchucks, one snake, one mink, one turtle, one otter and thirty-four birds.

We would like to thank the members of the Board of Health, Director Wade D. Saucier, Administrative Assistant JoAnne Pilz and Secretary Teresa Wooding, the Town Administrator, members of the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk and staff, Police and Fire Departments and the Department of Public Works for their assistance. The support from these departments and the citizens of Easton is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

John Melin, Animal Inspector
Elizabeth DeRosa, Animal Inspector

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission continues in its efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect Easton's historic and archeological resources. The Commission works cooperatively with the town's other commissions, boards, and committees to monitor and help control any effects that development and change can bring to Easton's unique historic character. We are available to any citizen for information and guidance regarding the preservation of historic properties, landscapes, and archeological sites in the town of Easton.

During the past year, several members of the Commission were active on other boards and committees of the town. Ed Hands sits on the Community Preservation Act Committee and is a representative to the Rockery Design Review Committee, Gloria Stafford participates on the Fly-Away Pond Committee and is on the Board of Trustees of the Ames Free Library, Melanie Deware is on the Cemetery Commission.

2003 was another active year for the Commission. We began negotiations on a preservation restriction on the North Easton Grammar School, and are working with the local American Legion on a plan for the preservation of Harmony Hall. Also, as holders of an historic preservation restriction on the Lincoln Street School, we monitored the redevelopment that was completed this year.

The Easton Historical Commission led the first phase of a multi-phase project to restore the Olmstead Rockery, and assisted in coordinating the remaining work on the restoration. The first phase stabilized and restored the most actively deteriorating elements of the Rockery. This phase was completed with financial assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, the National Park Service, and the Town of Easton. The project received matching funds from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the local Community Preservation Act Committee for a total of \$85,000. In addition, the Town of Easton judiciously voted to place a preservation restriction on the Rockery to ensure its protection in the future.

Community Preservation Act funds also made it possible for the Commission to make advances in the creation of an overall Historic Preservation Plan for Easton. The Commission created an RFP to find the appropriate consultant with which to develop this plan. Work on this project will continue in 2004.

As part of the Commission's ongoing commitment to noting the natural and historical significance of Easton, new signs were posted that identify the original names of intersections. The Commission is also working to restore historic maps, and research the designation requirements for Scenic Roadways in Easton.

The Commission presented a Demolition-Delay By-Law for the first time in 2003 and will continue to work with the public and the Massachusetts Historical Commission to include refinements specific to the Easton community.

The Commission presented awards again this year. Charles and Alice McCarthy were given the Clement Briggs Award for their work in preserving their farm on Center St., their effort to save Oakes Ames Memorial Hall from destruction, and their continued work with the NRT. John Kent and Cornelius (Connie) Spillane received W.L. Chaffin Award. Mr. Kent was the first chair of the Easton Historical Commission, serving in that position for over 25 years during which he helped to save Ames Memorial Hall from destruction. Through the years, Mr. Spillane founded the South Shore leagues for amateur sports players, initiated minor league baseball recruiting programs for area youth, and always contributed the historical awareness of the area.

At the awards ceremony, the Commission hosted a photography contest for Easton residents. We thank local businesses, especially the Bank of Easton, and residents for their support. The Commission also honored the town's oldest citizen, Mary Lyons. We thank the North Easton Savings Bank for its help in maintaining the tradition of the Boston Post Cane for our oldest citizen.

In 2003, the responsibility for chairing the Commission was transferred from Greg Galer to Melanie Deware. We thank Greg for his years of insightful, professional leadership, and Melanie for her willingness to take on this substantial responsibility. We also thank Robert Babineau, who stepped down in 2003, for his many years of service on the Commission.

The Commission can be contacted via our web site (www.historicalcommission.org), where additional information can be found. The Chairman can be reached at 508-238-0373

Respectfully Submitted,

- Melanie Deware, Chairman
- John Ventresco, Vice Chairman
- Cathy Adler
- Greg Galer
- Edmund Hands
- Gloria Stafford
- Larry Mowatt & Frank Menino, Associate Members

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

During 2003, the Council on Aging reached out to the 3,100 elderly residents of Easton through our monthly newsletter that was mailed or delivered to each elderly household and through articles in the local newspapers. In addition to mailing the newsletter, the Council provided direct service in transportation, nutrition, recreation, and outreach to our elderly residents.

We provided thousands of rides for our elderly and disabled residents to medical appointments, grocery stores, shopping malls, local hairdressers and to the community buildings at Parker Terrace and Elise Circle for Council on Aging programs on either our lift-equipped shuttle vans or with one of our volunteers. We also connected with the Brockton Area Transit, Dial-a-Bat service, for transportation to Boston area medical appointments.

During the year, the Council offered a number of health promotion programs. A nurse from Pedi-Care, Inc. provided preventive foot care at twice-monthly clinics and we held hearing screenings and minor hearing-aid repair clinics once a month. We were able to continue a twice-weekly exercise program and our weekly Tai-Chi class with funding from Stonehill College and we are truly grateful for their support of our elderly programs.

Seniors participated in recreational programs including board games, bowling, bridge, ceramics, crafts, cribbage, knitting, line dancing, painting, and quilting. Many traveled with us on day trips and overnight tours. We are grateful to the Recreation Commission for the Summer Barbecue they provided in the Community Center at Parker Terrace for our elderly residents.

We were fortunate to have many volunteers who helped us during the year, making it possible for us to run a wide variety of programs for our elderly including meals on wheels delivery to our homebound elders and help for our seniors with filing income tax returns.

We are thankful to the many groups and individuals who enriched the lives of our elderly residents through their generous gifts of time and support. The Easton Lions Club held their annual Eye Mobile health screening and cookout, which took place in September. Stonehill College students and faculty assisted frail elderly homeowners with garden cleanup and household chores on their annual "Stonehill Gives Back" day last Spring. The staff and children of the Old Colony YMCA, Frothingham Family Division, invited our seniors to participate in their Thanksgiving Celebration on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Children from Moreau Hall Elementary School continued to make beautifully decorated place mats for many of our monthly luncheon celebrations. Teens from the Restaurant Skills Class at Oliver Ames High School made special treats for many of those celebrations as well as Thanksgiving Dinners and cookies, which we delivered to many elderly residents who were alone during the holidays. High school students, under the direction of Mrs. Jean Churchill, taught our senior citizens how to use computers and the Internet.

Our outreach coordinator made home visits to elders and arranged a variety of home care services for those in need by working with local social services agencies including Old Colony Elderly Services, volunteer groups, and private homemakers. Staff members helped fuel assistance applicants. Seniors, who participated in the Senior Tax-Relief program, provided valuable help to the town and received a tax credit for hours of service.

We would like to thank the Easton Housing Authority for the use of their community buildings for our Council on Aging programs, as we have appreciated their cooperation over the years. During this past year, the Task Force for Senior Center Development has been working on plans for a Senior Center with their 1st task to secure land for the center. The Council has been accepting donations for the new senior center and will encourage the formation of a non-profit group whose purpose will be to raise funds for senior center

construction and future program operation. The Task Force looked at various locations for a senior center and will be making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on site selection. They will also develop a finance plan for site acquisition, building construction and future program operation.

We extend our appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the residents of Easton for their continued support of our elderly services and programs and look forward to working with town officials and community members as we strive to build a Senior Center that will meet the needs of our elderly residents.

Respectfully submitted:

- Francis Spillane, Chairman
- Phyllis Kiessling, Vice-chairman
- Elizabeth Verity, Secretary
- Marie Healey
- Ethel Pomerleau
- Nicolina Previti
- Christine Quinn
- Dolores Kent, Director

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission is responsible to oversee that our town owned cemeteries are maintained for our future generations. We try with our limited funds to clean, straighten and reset, or replace monuments where needed. We would like to thank the DPW crew that did an excellent job in cleaning and mowing the town cemeteries. We also work with the Town Clerk's office in following up on the veterans buried in our Easton cemeteries.

We express our thanks to all the town officials and citizens of Easton for their continuous support which enables us maintain the care of our cemeteries.

The Cemetery Commission can be reach by calling the Town Clerk at 508-230-0531

Respectfully submitted,

John Melin, Chairman
Raymond Phillips
John Howard
Melanie Deware, Associate Member

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Responsibility – the World War Memorial Committee administers the World War Memorial Scholarship fund in honor and in memory of the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. For future information, please contact the Town Administrator's Office and you will be referred to the member of the Committee most familiar with your concern.

The Committee held the annual meeting on May 15, 2003, in the guidance office of the Oliver Ames High School, to evaluate the applications for scholarships.

On the odd numbered years, an academic scholarship is awarded to a student attending an accredited college. The year 2001 scholarship was awarded to Stacey Jones who is attending Northeastern University. The award will be paid annually, subject to evidence of successful academic achievement. The 2003 Scholarship was awarded to Chris Ivanoski who will attend the University of Rhode Island.

One vocational grant was awarded to a student pursuing a course of study that requires special books, tools and other supplies. The recipient for the year 2003 was:

Janet Zamiara who will attend Johnson and Wales.

We offer our thanks to Bill Sullivan and Elayne Mahoney for their interest, advice and assistance and to John Nunes for administering the scholarship fund.

The World War Memorial Fund is being eroded due to the low interest rates. We want to continue our awards as in the past, and request your contribution to stabilize the fund.

Thank you to the members of the Committee and congratulations to the recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley, Chairman
John Melin
Robert McLaughlin
Permanent Members

Chairman, School Committee
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Commander, American Legion

2003 REPORT OF THE AMES FREE LIBRARY – EASTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

2002 99,484 items loaned
2003 104,930 items loaned

For the first time in the library's history, the circulation of items was over one hundred thousand. The figures include books, museum passes, science kits, tapes, and videos. Most of the items are from the library's collections.

The library was closed for four days because of weather.

The Building Project continues to occupy much time. DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge, Jr., ruled in the library's favor with regard to the ditch on the north side of the property not being "riverfront." Plans for construction can move ahead with new drawings being required because of major code changes. These new drawings should be ready early next year.

In addition, the tower on the Richardson library building was taken down in May. This action was required to prevent it from falling down. The mortar had disintegrated so much that only gravity was holding the stones in place. It also became apparent that some of the stones had deteriorated so much that they must be replaced. Plans call for rebuilding the tower in the spring when weather conditions are such that the stones will be warm enough for mortar to adhere properly.

This year the major children's event was an "interactive" concert by Bill Harley, a nationally known, award winning storyteller and singer. The event was held at Stonehill College Alumni Hall and was in honor of Fanny Holt Ames.

Additional children's programs were held throughout the year and were funded through the Stonehill College Enrichment Fund. These funds come from a donation given by Stonehill College to the library through the Town in lieu of taxes. Eighty-two programs were held with 1500 children attending. 260 children completed the summer reading program, "Read, Think, Create @ Your Library."

The library was the recipient of a set of books, "Celebrate the Century" and a framed set of state stamps from the Easton postmasters. In addition, the Lions Club and the Friends of the Library provided museum passes for residents to borrow.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was ruled constitutional so all libraries that receive federal funds for computers and the Internet must install filters on all public computers. The Ames Free Library does not have any federal grants for computers or internet services so are not required to provide filters.

An additional book club was started at the library. This adult non-fiction book club is as popular as the two fiction books clubs. Each club meets monthly and has six to ten participants. One fiction club meets on the first Monday evening of the month, the other on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month. The non-fiction club meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month. These clubs are free and open to all residents.

As a member of the SAILS Library Network, this library provides home access to its collections and to national databases. There are over seventy libraries in the network and because of the size and complexity; all residents must use their library card when borrowing items. Key chain cards along with regular cards are available to make it easy to carry the library card at all times.

The library has been fortunate to have a staff that continues to provide excellent service to the residents of this town.

We thank the other departments that help us to do our jobs better, and the Board of Selectmen, and especially the Board of Directors of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annalee Bundy
Executive Director

2003 REPORT OF THE AMES TRUST FUND

Following is a summary of the Ames Trust Funds held for the benefit of the schools and highways of the Town of Easton as of December 31, 2003, including estimates of the income to be distributed to the Town during 2004. Unfortunately it appears that once again the estimates of income available for distribution in 2004 will be less than the income actually paid to the Town in the previous year from all three funds. While dividend income from common stocks held in the portfolios of the funds has actually held up quite well in spite of the recession of the past couple of years, the major source of the income generated from these funds is interest from fixed income securities primarily U.S. Treasury bonds and notes. As you know, the Federal Reserve during the past couple of years has lowered interest rates drastically in an effort to curb the recession. Thus when it becomes necessary to reinvest the proceeds from matured bonds the current rates are often as much as 200 basis points (2%) less than the rate of the matured fixed income security. At the moment the end of this trend is not in sight. The Trustees realize that this decline in distributable income comes at an especially difficult time with declines in tax revenue as well as reductions in local aid from the Commonwealth. Therefore the Trustees are working with their investment advisors to explore means of increasing the income from the Trust Funds without endangering the security of the principal.

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>12/31/03 Market Value</u>	<u>2003 Income Paid to Town</u>	<u>2004 Estimate Income to Town</u>
Highways Fund	\$1,189,778.25	\$5,483,264.44	\$149,447.69	\$134,000.00
Highways Perm. Fund	168,406.93	230,496.04	4,861.05	3,900.00
Schools Fund	3,318,820.32	4,663,186.71	102,957.11	85,000.00

Detailed accounts for the three funds for the year ended December 31, 2003 will be provided shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

James S. Thomas
Trustee

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL ASSOCIATION

Investment Income

William Hadwen Ames Trust	
Hobart Ames Trust	
Oakes Angier Ames Trust.....	<u>3,000.00</u>
Sub-total	3,000.00

Operating Income

Rentals (net)	<u>8,235.00</u>
Sub-total	8,235.00

Other Income

Private Donations	10,600.00
Miscellaneous	<u>987.04</u>
Sub-total	11,587.04

Total income.....\$22,822.04

Expenses

Utilities: electricity, fuel oil, gas,	
sprinkler, telephone, water,	8,409.25
Fees: rental agent, custodial	8,799.00
Fire Safety	2,219.94
Plumbing	1,522.70
Other expenses	2,559.49

Total Expense.....23,510.38

2003 net operating deficit of<\$688.34>

While there were no major improvements at the Hall this year the Trustees have managed to keep the building and grounds in good repair with minor improvements. The most noticeable is the removal of the ten-foot tall rhododendrons by the front staircase. This was a joint effort by the Trustees and the Easton Lions. The Trustees are also grateful to the Easton Garden Club members who will be replanting the grounds this spring. This landscaping project was undertaken to compliment the town's improvements to the F.L. Olmsted "Rockery" which have been such a success. The Trustees wish to thank the town for their continued support of their National Historic Landmark and look forward to hearing from anyone interested in supporting this historic building and the H.H. Richardson National Historic Landmark District.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick L. Ames, President

2003 REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

As your representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2003.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the fifteen-member community region. OCPC is designated as: an Economic Development District by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for the coordination of economic development activities within the OCPC District; an Area Agency on Aging by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three community service area; and, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region. We are proud that the Old Colony Planning Council is the only regional council in New England to hold all of these official designations at the same time.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council is concerned with a wide variety of area-wide and inter-municipal concerns as they pertain to the development of the Planning District. The Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning assistance, grant application preparation assistance and with information on local and regional trends by maintaining current socioeconomic information.

This past year, the Council completed work on the Pembroke Master Plan; Whitman Master Plan; Abington, Pembroke, and Whitman Community Development Plans; Old Colony 2003 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, which identifies transportation project needs, in the OCPC region, for the next twenty-five years; Avon East/West Circulation Study; Regional Truck Study; OCPC 2003 DataBook; Old Colony 2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies; BAT FY 2003 Ridership Analysis; Bridgewater State College (BSC) Transit Study; Whitman Traffic Circulation Study; numerous Intersection Studies and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). During the past year, the council conducted traffic counts at approximately 150 locations throughout the region. The Council also continued to work on Route 28 Corridor Study (Avon/Randolph town line to Bridgewater/Middleborough town line), Executive order 418 Program, Brockton Area Coalition for the Homeless, and with the Southeastern Massachusetts Vision 2020 Program. The Council initiate work on the Local/Regional Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the OCPC Region. During the past year the Council also restructured the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to include four additional members (City of Brockton, Town Avon, Bridgewater, and Plymouth).

Each member community of the Council is represented by one delegate and one alternate member. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. In 2003, the Council re-elected David A. Johnson of East Bridgewater as President of OCPC; Jeanmarie Kent Joyce of Easton as Council Secretary; and, Joseph P. Landolfi of Stoughton as Council Treasurer. Pasquale Ciaramella serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks are extended to Joint Transportation Committee Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Committee Chair Salvador A. Pina; and, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Chair Diane Cunningham, for their commitment, dedication and leadership during the year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Delegate
Stephen J. Donahue, Alternate
Matthew Striggles, Delegate At-Large

2003 REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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Respectfully submitted,
Jeanmarie Kent Joyce, Delegate
Stephen J. Donahue, Alternate
Matthew Striggles, Delegate At-Large

2003 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Delegate and Alternate to the Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging (OCPC-AAA) Advisory Committee are pleased to present this report of the OCPC-AAA activities for fiscal year 2003.

The OCPC-AAA is responsible for planning coordinating and funding elder services under the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 in the 23- community region served by the Agency. The OCPC-AAA, in conjunction with input from the 23-community Advisory Committee, has focused its efforts on developing a network of services and programs to serve the unmet needs of the neediest elders from throughout the region. In fiscal year 2003, the OCPC-AAA provided more than \$900,000 in OAA grant funding to various service provider agencies for the following services and programs in the region:

- Mental Health Services
- Services for wheel-chair bound elders
- Legal Assistance
- Senior Lunch Programs (Congregate and Home-Delivered)
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Services for Low-Income Minority Elders
- Outreach and Transportation
- Personal Care and Caregiver Respite
- Emergency Intervention Services
- Senior Aide Employment Training Program

The OCPC-AAA Delegates and Alternates serve in a crucial role in the development and support of elder services in the region. Committee members from each of the 23 communities assist the AAA in assessing elder service needs in the region, recommending funding priorities, and recommending sub-grantee awards.

The continued support and assistance provided by the community Delegates and Alternates are gratefully acknowledged by the Old Colony Planning Council. The OCPC-AAA also wishes to extend sincere thanks to Committee Chairwoman Diane Cunningham of Wareham, and Vice-Chairwoman Mary Willis of Pembroke for their leadership and involvement over the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phyllis Kiessling, Delegate
Marie Healey, Alternate

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

As the year 2002 closed, the Committee was in the process of requesting permission from property owners of those six sites to conduct test pits in order to characterize soil and groundwater conditions. This effort continued in the early months of 2003, although permission to undertake test pits was obtained only at Stonehill College. These test pits were conducted in late Spring. The soil and groundwater data obtained indicated that the site could be suitable for discharging wastewater effluent.

In Summer 2003 the Committee did not renew the contract of the consulting company working on the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), SEA Consultants. Negotiations began with Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM) to complete the project. All required deliverables were received from SEA and CDM's contract to complete the CWMP was approved by the Board of Selectmen in Fall 2003.

The CWMP sections completed to date have been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for review and comment. As we moved forward into the next phase, the emphasis was on finalizing the Needs Assessment and developing alternatives to meet Easton's current and future wastewater management needs. The Committee is especially focused on identification of "Priority Areas" - those sections of the community that may be constrained from utilizing on-site systems due to soil conditions or property size. We are developing feasible, cost effective alternatives for "priority" areas, as well as developing wastewater management recommendations for the entire Town. Throughout the year the Committee has sought to keep up to date on all regional wastewater issues so that any possibility for regionalization will be explored. In particular, we have been following developments at the Brockton wastewater facility and monitoring the progress of ongoing CWMP's in adjacent communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Radovanic, Chairman
Mark Bartlett, Vice Chairman
Ronald Lawson, Secretary
Howard Marguilies
Kenneth Carlson
Daniel M. Crane
Robert Kane, Board of Health
Jack Marsh, Water Department

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The September 1998 Special Town Meeting voted to establish the Municipal Building Committee. The powers and duties of this committee are to serve as a building committee for all school and government building projects valued at \$50,000 or more, including changes to existing buildings and all new buildings; to conduct inspections of all school and government buildings and to assist the DPW Director with the preparation of annual and 5-year capital improvement and maintenance plans.

In 2003, the Committee reorganized with Robert E. Langway, Jr. as Chairman, Paul Mullen, Vice Chairman and Kenneth Carlson, Secretary. Regular monthly meetings were held on the third Tuesday in Room C201 of the F.L.O. School at 5:30 pm and additional meetings were added, as needed, on the first Tuesday of the month. Throughout the year, the Committee worked closely with the School Planning Committee and devoted much of its time to the planning of the school construction projects at the OAHS and EJHS. The Committee also conducted a joint meeting with the Capital Planning Committee and appeared before the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission to exchange ideas, information and strategies relating to the Town building needs. In addition, the Committee has worked with the DPW Director on an ongoing basis to develop capital improvement and maintenance plans for all Town buildings.

In February, the Committee screened and interviewed applicants for Project Manager for the school construction projects and selected Gilbane Building Company as most qualified. Once the architect was selected by the School Planning Committee, the Municipal Building Committee worked closely with Kaestle-Boos on the development of the schematic designs for the school projects. A design phase working group was formed consisting of three committee members and representatives of the Project Manager, Architect and School Department. The design process culminated in a public presentation and information forum sponsored by the Committee in January, 2004 at OAHS.

In keeping with its charge to inspect all school and government buildings, the Committee successfully sponsored a warrant article at Town Meeting authorizing funds for a Survey of Conditions at the H.H.R. /F.L.O. Schools. The survey will ensure that the future maintenance needs of those schools are accounted for in assessing and prioritizing Town building needs.

In 2004, the Committee will continue to fulfill its mandate to oversee the school construction projects and will strive to ensure that the projects are run smoothly, safely, on-time and within budget. Regular meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday at 5:30 pm in Room C201 of the F.L.O. School and Agendas will be posted at Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Langway, Jr., Chairman

Lenny Altieri

Marc Brockman

Ken Carlson, Secretary

Paul Mullen, Vice Chairman

Henry Narsasian

Ralph Vatalaro

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

We are pleased to submit this report of the Community Preservation Act Committee of the Town of Easton.

Background

In the spring of 2001, the Voters of Easton adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA was enacted by the legislature to provide a dedicated funding stream for the preservation of open space, historic resources and community housing. At that time, statistics were showing that open space in Massachusetts was being developed at a rate of 44 acres per day and our legislators realized that the opportunities to preserve open space were fast disappearing. If communities wanted to preserve open space for future needs, they would have to act soon. CPA funding is provided through a local real estate tax surcharge and a statewide registry of deeds surcharge. The state funds are distributed to participating communities as matching funds. The state match can be as much as 100% of the total amount raised by a community, depending upon how much revenue is collected by the state and how many communities are participating. At this time, 61 communities have adopted the CPA.

Each community that passes the CPA does so for its own reasons. The Committee feels it is important to keep in mind the reasons that Easton's citizens passed the Community Preservation Act. Those reasons include Easton's long-standing record of supporting conservation and open space preservation; its support for providing recreational opportunities for Easton's children; its pride in, and support for, preservation of Easton's historic resources; and its value of Easton's rural beginnings and desire to preserve some of its remaining scenic vistas, special places and landmarks for future generations.

Easton's CPA surcharge includes two exemptions: for the first \$100,000 of assessed value for every residence; and an exemption for property owned and occupied by lower income persons. State matching funds are calculated in October of each year and are based upon the amounts collected during the preceding year. Thus far, there have been two awards of state matching. The first, in October of 2002, resulted in Easton's receipt of \$420,468, a 100% match of the Town's funds collected from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. The second round in October of 2003 resulted in the Town's receipt of \$484,857, another 100% match of the funds collected by the Town in the previous fiscal year.

10% of all of the CPA funds raised, whether through the local surcharge or the state match, must be dedicated to each of the following preservation purposes: open space preservation; historic preservation; and community housing. The remaining 70% of the funds are "unreserved" and can be used for any community preservation purpose.

CPA Committee

The Town of Easton's CPA Committee is comprised of four citizens "at large" and five members selected from existing town boards and committees. The "citizen-members" include Michael Boyle, Capital Improvements Planning Committee member and former FinCom member; Patricia Hunt, former selectwoman and former FinCom member; James D. Mullen, Jr., Water Advisory Commission member, former selectman and former FinCom member; and Craig Muscato, Recreation Director. John Grant serves on the committee for the Easton Conservation Commission; Edmund Hands serves for the Easton Historical Commission; and Christopher Kone, chairman of the Easton Planning and Zoning Board, serves for the PZB. This year, Daniel Crane, who had served on the Committee for the Easton Housing Authority resigned from the Authority, which resulted in his resignation from our Committee. We thank Dan for his service. We welcome Michael Malloy who was recently appointed by the Easton H.A. to take Dan's place. Stephen Torrey, chairman of the Easton Recreation Commission, served on the Committee until his recent resignation from the Recreation Commission. We want to thank Steve for his dedicated service to the Town, for his thoughtful contributions during our meetings and for his ongoing support of the Committee's long-term goals regarding land acquisition for open space and recreational purposes.

The primary purpose of the CPA Committee is to review preservation options and make recommendations to town meeting for the expenditure of CPA funds. This year, Town Meeting approved funding of \$100,000 for the matching portion of a state grant to be used toward the Frederick Law Olmstead Rockery Restoration Project. Town Meeting also approved a \$25,000 funding contribution toward the creation of a group home for four special needs young adults. This home will add four units of affordable housing to the Town's 40B inventory. Restrictions will ensure that the project continues in perpetuity.

Thus far, the Committee has reviewed five parcels of land for potential acquisition. The Town held a right of first refusal on two of the parcels. When reviewing these parcels, the Committee looked at a number of different factors: the potential CPA uses – conservation, recreation, historic preservation or community housing; whether the parcel was listed for acquisition in the Open Space and Recreation Plan; what would happen to the parcel if not acquired by the Town; the costs of acquisition; and where the acquisition of this parcel stood in relation to other priorities, including those of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Some committee members walked accessible parcels. We reviewed any plans, including proposed subdivision plans, which involved the parcels. In two of the cases where the parcels were being sold for development, the Committee considered that the Town would be gifted some land as a part of the development plan. Ultimately, in each case, we asked ourselves “if we buy this parcel, will there be sufficient money left to do the acquisition projects in our long-term goals that have greater priority?” Each parcel was desirable in some way, which made the decisions more difficult. In each case, however, the Committee recommended not going forward with the acquisition. The Committee understands that its focus must be to ensure that there will be CPA funds for the priority acquisitions when they arise. Although we would like to provide more detail on the priority acquisitions, we do not feel it is in the best interests of the town or landowners to identify particular parcels. As soon as these parcels are available for acquisition, we will present the proposal to Town Meeting for your consideration.

Project Evaluation Criteria

The Committee has adopted the following factors to be considered when evaluating a proposal eligible for CPA funding:

- Consistency with the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan or other planning documents related to community preservation that have undergone a public planning process;
- Serves more than one community preservation principle;
- Support of relevant town committee (Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Historic Commission, Easton Housing Authority);
- Project will have multiple funding sources /CPA funds can be leveraged to access other funds;
- Preserves a threatened resource (future of resource if project not funded);
- Acquisition project vs. development project;
- Public access (if applicable to project);
- Affordable cost; and
- Consistency with preservation program priorities (will not divert funding from project with higher priority).

Do you have an opinion on how the CPA funds should be spent? Do you know of a special place or project that should be considered for CPA funding? CPA funds belong to the people of Easton; we'd like to hear your ideas. The Committee holds monthly public meetings and at least one public hearing per year. Our public hearing was held last year in April and we expect to hold this year's hearing in April, as well. Our meetings are open to the public and you can write to us at the Easton Town Offices.

There are two websites that contain information on the Community Preservation Act. One is the website of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs at www.state.ma.us/envir and the other is at www.communitypreservation.org. Easton's CPA Committee is also listed on the town's website at www.easton.ma.us. Our recently completed “Community Preservation Act in Easton” is posted on the website as well as other CPA-related information.

In its April – July, 2003 issue of “Connections”, Mass Audubon issued a report entitled “The Closing Window for Land Protection”. It stated, “The conservation of biodiversity is among the greatest human endeavors of the present age. We have spent the last fifty years learning how much there is at stake – the nature of the world –and how close we are to losing it. Here in Massachusetts the opportunity to ensure the survival of our extraordinary natural landscapes and troves of irreplaceable species – to take nature with us into the future has shown itself. The main chance is now...right now.” When we look around Easton and observe the changes caused by development, we realize that we cannot take for granted the scenic vistas, open spaces and historic resources that have long been a part of our Town and contribute to our quality of life. If we want these assets to continue to be a part of our community, if we want to ensure that we have sufficient land for our growing and future community recreational needs, we will need to prioritize the use of our CPA funds. Although we will not be able to save every vista or purchase every parcel of land, we can concentrate on the priorities. And that is what this Committee will strive to do.

In closing, we want to thank Town Administrator Martha White and the Town Accountant Wendy Nightingale for their assistance. Primarily, appreciation is due to the people of Easton for their foresight in passing the Community Preservation Act and for their continued support of its goals.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Hunt, Chair, for the Committee
James D. Mullen, Jr., Vice Chair
John Grant, Clerk
Michael Boyle
Edmund Hands
Christopher Kone
Creig Muscato
Michael Malloy

**2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL**
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE RECLAMATION BOARD

BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT
140 NORTH WALKER STREET * TAUNTON, MA 02780
Tel: (508) 823-5253 * Fax: (508) 828-1868

On June 30, 2003 the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project completed forty-four years of service to the cities and towns of Bristol County.

The mosquito control project works year-round in its efforts to reduce mosquito breeding sites and adult mosquito populations. The Project uses several different measures of control in its never-ending fight against mosquitoes.

Spring and Summer Larviciding - To reduce the emergence of adult mosquitoes in areas where mosquito larvae are present.

Catch Basin Treatment - To stop mosquito emergence from rain-filled catch basins and storm drains.

Light Trapping Program - To monitor mosquito populations as to their type and number - a program necessary in encephalitis surveillance. Light trapping of mosquitoes is also useful to determine what areas have nuisance populations of mosquitoes and should be sprayed.

Water Management - A year round endeavor to clean and construct mosquito drainage ditches in lowland swamps to reduce breeding sites for mosquito larvae.

It is the policy of the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project to use pesticides that are environmentally safe so that the safety of the people and environment are not jeopardized. We use as many of the biological insecticides as are practical with the environmental conditions present in the New England area. We are presently using three different formulations of B.T.I. in our larval control program.

All of our spray equipment is calibrated periodically in order to insure that dosage rates remain at safe levels but are adequate to reduce mosquito populations. The operators of our spray equipment are state licensed pesticide applicators that are required to attend classes on pesticide safety on a yearly basis.

During the time period January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003 the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project in Easton:

- Sprayed over 11,776 acres
- Treated 30 acres in 33 locations with BTI for mosquito larvae
- Received 669 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 1,214 feet of brush
- Performed 575 feet of ditch maintenance with power equipment

In a cooperative program with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project has been trapping mosquitoes throughout Bristol County. As of October 31, 2003, there were thirteen isolates of West Nile Virus, two isolates of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and three isolates of Highlands Jay Virus from mosquitoes. One horse contracted WNV and three others contracted EEE. There were two human cases of WNV.

I would like to thank the town officials and the people of Easton for their continued support and cooperation and look forward to serving them in the coming year. Should anyone have a question as to what might be done to relieve a mosquito problem in their area, whether it is water management work, treatment of a breeding site, or just having an area checked, please feel free to call our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Andrews, Superintendent
December 31, 2003

Commissioners:
Gordon W. Wolfe, Chairman
William L. Glass, MD
Arthur F. Tobin
Daniel B. Amorim
Gregory D. Dorrance

2003 REPORT OF THE BORDERLAND STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Borderland State Park Advisory Council (BSPAC) held three meetings in 2003, January, September and December. An extensive number of letters and memos were sent to newspapers, State Senators, State Representatives and administrators within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) by the BSPAC concerning matters at Borderland. These matters were the proposed parking fee, \$2.00, staffing, maintenance and funding at the park.

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) implemented the parking fee on the first of June over the repeated objection of the BSPAC and the Friends of Borderland. The result of the fee has been a 40% decrease in park attendance through the June to October period, an increase in workload for staff, the addition of a part-time Park Ranger to enforce the fee. Additional money was collected from the sale of annual passes and parking fees, \$27,000, which does not stay at Borderland but goes into the State General Fund. The budget for 2002/3 was \$199,000 with 82% going for worker salary's, a decrease is expected in next year's budget.

The longtime supervisor at Borderland Mr. Robert Babineau took an early retirement package offered by the State and left Borderland; his expertise will be greatly missed. Ms. Ellenor Yahrmahrt, the park interpreter has been appointed acting supervisor.

In September the EOEA announced a reorganization of the DEM into the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Ms. Katherine Abbott was appointed Commissioner. The BSPAC contacted the new Commissioner and with the help of our Senators and Representatives secured a meeting with all concerned parties in December to discuss concerns at Borderland. The meeting served to bring all of the parties together to discuss the future direction of Borderland and how it will be staffed, maintained and funded. The meeting produced no definite changes in DCR policy except that the DCR has pledged to be more open in the future with the Friends and Advisory Councils and to listen to the concerns of park users. The Council discussed the impact on the Park of the proposed development of Rattlesnake Hill in Sharon and supported its purchase by the Town of Sharon and the EOEA as an addition to Borderland State Park.

The Council members appreciate the programs planned by the Friends of Borderland, the continued programs for the cross country runners of the high school, the services of the Garden Club and the Easton Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Hocking, Jr., Chairman (Foxboro)
Paul Berry, Easton Historical Society
John J. Kent, Easton Representative
John Ventresco, Friends of Borderland

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SERVICES GROUP

The first quarter of the year was a busy time for SERSG as we re-located to a new office at 18 Oliver Street in Easton. This completes the down-sizing that was necessary as a result of the termination of our tobacco control program.

In January and February the SERSG Regional Administrator sponsored two training sessions on the symptoms which would reasonably lead a supervisor to think a municipal employee was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This training is mandated by the federal Department of Transportation for all supervisors of municipal drivers of commercial motor vehicles.

In April SERSG conducted cooperative procurements for office supplies, paper supplies and DPW supplies which resulted in substantial savings for our member municipalities. Staples won sixteen office supply contracts with an all-time high discount of 72.25% off of the list price for office supplies contained in the United Stationers Supply Catalog.

We closed the year with our Fall cooperative procurement for DPW Services. This IFB has grown over the years. The dollar value of contracts that will be awarded as a result of this IFB now totals nearly six million dollars. The Regional Administrator continues to work closely with the Highway Superintendents in the drafting and production of these procurements. Their cooperation has been key to the success of these cooperative IFBs.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Salisbury
SERSG Regional Administrator

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

508-230-0530

Fax 508-230-0539

Town Clerk Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC

Assistant Town Clerk Jean A. Shearing

Clerical Assistant Susan deR. Heath

Town Clerk Emeritus Esther C. Anderson

E-Mail: jlinehan@easton.ma.us

At the end of Calendar year 2003 there were some changes to the staffing in the Town Clerk's Office. Susan Heath left for the Building Department. Karen A. Gallo was appointed to this position. Jean A. Shearing, Assistant Town Clerk, retired as of December 31, 2003. Marie A. Graca was appointed to begin as Assistant Town Clerk as of January 5, 2004.

The Town Clerk's Office in Easton is proud to be able to now provide Passport Services to our residents.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of the Town Clerk serves as the central information center of the Town by collecting, maintaining and disseminating public records; being a direct link between the residents of Easton and their local government. The office strives to serve the public and all Town Departments by being versatile, alert, accurate and patient. The goal of the Office of the Town Clerk is to preserve, protect and uphold all Town records in the custody of the Town Clerk, including Vital Records, and to conduct fair and impartial Elections for Registered Voters, all in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, rendering equal service to all in order to merit public confidence.

* * * * *

The Town Clerk serves you as...

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL

- Oversees polling places, election officers, and the general conduct of all elections.
- Directs preparation of ballots, polling places, voting equipment, voting lists, administers campaign finance laws, certifies nomination papers and initiative petitions and serves on the local Board of Registrars.
- Supervises voter registration and absentee balloting, and prepares, records and reports official election results to the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth.
- Conducts the annual town census, prepares the street list of residents and school list, and furnishes the jury list to the Office of the Jury Commissioner.

RECORDING OFFICER

- Records and certifies all official actions of the Town, including town meeting legislation and appropriations, Planning and Zoning Board and Board of Appeals Decisions, signs all notes for borrowing, and keeps the Town Seal.
- Records state tax liens.

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

- Registers all vital events occurring within the community and those events occurring elsewhere to local residents.

- Records and preserves original birth, marriage, and death records providing the basis for the Commonwealth's central vital registration system.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

- Administers the oath of office to all elected and appointed members of local committees and boards and ensures that all elected and appointed officials are informed of the State's Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Laws. Posts meetings of all government bodies.
- Provides access to public records in compliance with State Public Records Law and corresponding regulations.
- Provides certified copies of vital records and conducts or assists with genealogical research for members of the public, and is responsible for maintenance, disposition and preservation of municipal archival records and materials.
- Maintains records of adopted municipal codes, local bylaws, oaths of office, resignations and appointments, petitions, publications, budgets, meeting minutes, and financial statements.
- Submits bylaws and zoning ordinances to Attorney General for approval.

LICENSING OFFICER

- Issues state licenses and permits: including marriage licenses, hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and permits for raffles and bazaars. Issues county or local licenses, permits, and certificates as mandated by statute or bylaw, which may include business certificates, animal licenses, and fuel storage permits.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

- Responds to inquires from the general public, frequently serving as facilitator with departments, providing knowledge and assistance in a fair and impartial manner to all.
- Often considered the core of local government, the Town Clerk's Office serves as the central information point for local residents and citizens at large.

If we can be of assistance to you in any way, please contact us in person, by phone, or by e-mail.

**2003 VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED IN EASTON
THRU FEBRUARY 9, 2004**

BIRTHS

Males	106	226 Single Births
Females	<u>124</u>	<u>2 Sets of Twins</u>
Total Births	230	230 Children

MARRIAGES

Marriages in Easton	45	RESIDENCE OF BRIDES & GROOMS:	
Marriages Out of Easton	<u>53</u>	Both Residents of Easton	61
		One Easton, One Other MA Town	15
Total Marriages Recorded	98	One Easton, One Out of State	7
		Both Out of State	5
		Both Out of Town	9
		One Out of Town, One Out of State	<u>1</u>
		Total	98

DEATHS

Residents who died in Easton	59	BY AGE & GENDER			
Residents who died out of Easton	82	Ages	Female	Male	Total
Non-Residents who died in Easton	<u>26</u>	0-19	0	2	2
Total	167	20-49	6	8	14
		50-59	9	9	18
TYPE OF FACILITY:		60-69	5	10	15
Hospital	57	70-79	23	18	41
Nursing Home	64	80-89	28	20	48
Residence	42	90-99	16	12	28
Other	<u>4</u>	100+ (104)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	167	Totals	88	79	167

TYPE OF FACILITY:	
Hospital	57
Nursing Home	64
Residence	42
Other	<u>4</u>
Total	167

Vital Records received as of 2/9/2004

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Various meetings of the Board of Registrars were held for registration of voters for Town Meetings and all elections.

PCT	DEMOCRAT	GREEN PARTY	GREEN-RAINBOW	INTER. 3RD PARTY	LIBERTARIAN	REFORM	REPUBLICAN	SOCIALIST	UNENROLLED	TOTAL
At the close of Registration January 3, 2003 for the Special Town Meeting on January 13, 2003										
1	410	0	1	0	5	2	328	0	826	1572
2	637	0	2	2	13	0	511	1	1310	2476
3	630	0	4	3	16	2	428	0	1263	2346
4	578	0	2	1	11	2	460	0	1264	2318
5	635	0	1	1	5	1	374	0	1347	2364
6	547	0	0	3	20	1	401	0	1240	2212
Total	3437	0	10	10	70	8	2502	1	7250	13288
At the close of Registration April 2, 2003 for Annual Town Election on April 22, 2003										
1	411	0	2	0	5	2	334	0	837	1591
2	648	0	2	2	13	0	516	1	1334	2516
3	643	1	4	3	16	2	440	0	1291	2400
4	586	0	2	1	13	2	463	0	1278	2345
5	641	0	1	1	6	1	382	0	1369	2401
6	559	0	0	3	20	1	407	0	1268	2258
Total	3488	1	11	10	73	8	2542	1	7377	13511
At the close of Registration April 29, 2003 for Annual Town Meeting on May 19, 2003										
1	411	0	2	0	5	2	336	0	840	1596
2	653	0	3	2	13	0	517	1	1343	2532
3	646	1	4	3	16	2	440	0	1305	2417
4	588	0	2	1	13	2	463	0	1282	2351
5	646	0	2	1	6	1	384	0	1373	2413
6	564	0	0	3	20	1	410	0	1275	2273
Total	3508	1	13	10	73	8	2550	1	7418	13582
At the close of Registration November 7, 2003 for Special Town Meeting on November 17, 2003										
1	426	0	3	0	5	2	342	0	860	1638
2	676	0	3	2	13	0	528	1	1375	2598
3	671	1	4	3	18	2	459	0	1362	2520
4	600	0	4	1	14	2	468	0	1314	2403
5	666	0	3	1	6	1	395	0	1415	2487
6	581	0	1	3	21	1	423	0	1323	2353
Total	3620	1	18	10	77	8	2615	1	7649	13999

PCT	DEMOCRAT USA	GREEN PARTY	GREEN- RAINBOW	INTER. 3RD PARTY	LIBERTARIAN	REFORM	REPUBLICAN	SOCIALIST	UNENROLLED	TOTAL
At the close of Registration November 19, 2003 for Special Election on December 9, 2003										
1	426	0	3	0	5	2	342	0	860	1638
2	676	0	3	2	13	0	529	1	1377	2601
3	671	1	4	3	19	2	459	0	1366	2525
4	601	0	4	1	15	2	468	0	1317	2408
5	667	0	3	1	6	1	397	0	1423	2498
6	584	0	1	3	21	1	424	0	1323	2357
Total	3625	1	18	10	79	8	2619	1	7666	14027

Respectfully submitted,
 Jean M. Kent, Chairman
 Jean H. Cote
 Kent M. Keith
 Janet Andrus Linehan, Clerk
 BOARD OF REGISTRARS

TOWN CLERKS FEES ISSUED JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2003

Birth Certificates	0	\$	6.00	\$	-
Death Certificates	0	\$	6.00	\$	-
Marriage Certificates	1	\$	6.00	\$	6.00
Birth Certificates	2	\$	5.00	\$	10.00
Death Certificates	0	\$	5.00	\$	-
Marriage Certificates	0	\$	5.00	\$	-
Birth Certificates	527	\$	10.00	\$	5,270.00
Death Certificates	679	\$	10.00	\$	6,790.00
Marriage Certificates	198	\$	10.00	\$	1,980.00
Birth Certificates	25	\$	8.00	\$	200.00
Death Certificates	0	\$	8.00		
Marriage Certificates	2	\$	8.00	\$	16.00
Correction of Death				\$	55.00
Marriage Intentions	0	\$	20.00	\$	-
Marriage Intentions	88	\$	25.00	\$	2,200.00
Voter I.D. Cards	5	\$	8.00	\$	40.00
Business Certificates	219	\$	25.00	\$	5,475.00
Business Certificates Disc/Change	6	\$	15.00	\$	90.00
Business Disc	8	\$	20.00	\$	160.00
Financing Statements	0	\$	15.00	\$	-
Financing Releases	0	\$	10.00	\$	-
Finance State Copies				\$	156.00
Finance State Search				\$	93.00
Recording Out of Commonwealth Birth				\$	20.00
Sale of Street lists				\$	1,280.00
Recording Pole Locations				\$	375.00
Copies, Etc				\$	174.90
Raffle Permits	5		\$15.00	\$	75.00
Sale of By-Laws/CodeBooks/Voter Lists				\$	521.75
Duplicate Dog Tags	9	\$	3.00	\$	27.00
Interest				\$	-
Board of Appeals Filing Fees				\$	10,800.00
Declaration of Business	1	\$	15.00	\$	15.00
Declaration of Homestead	2	\$	15.00	\$	30.00
Benefit for Credit Aggrement				\$	10.00
Sale of Fishing Holders				\$	2.00
Transfer Dog License	3	\$	5.00	\$	15.00
Search Fees				\$	190.00
Misc.				\$	68.47
Certify fee				\$	40.00
Passport	22	\$	15.00	\$	330.00
Passport	271	\$	30.00	\$	8,130.00
Total Town Clerk Fees				\$	44,645.12
Sporting License Fees	213	\$	1.00	\$	213.00
Sporting License Fees				\$	121.95
Total Paid to Town Treasurer				\$	44,980.07

Respectfully submitted

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

DOG LICENSES ISSUED JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2003

ISSUED JULY 1, 2002 TO JULY 2003 INCLUSIVE

# issued	License	Fee	Total
2002 (JULY TO APRIL)			
245	Neutered	\$10.00	\$2,450.00
72	Males	\$15.00	\$1,080.00
294	Spayed Females	\$10.00	\$2,940.00
38	Females	\$15.00	\$570.00
1	Kennel License	\$25.00	\$25.00
0	Kennel License	\$50.00	\$0.00
0	Transfer Licenses	\$3.00	\$0.00
650	Total Licenses		\$7,065.00
256	Late Fees	\$ 25.00	\$6,400.00
	Collected		\$13,465.00
2003 (March to June)			
849	Neutered Males	\$ 10.00	\$8,490.00
177	Males	\$ 15.00	\$2,655.00
1004	Spayed Females	\$ 10.00	\$10,040.00
87	Females	\$ 15.00	\$1,305.00
1	Kennel	\$ 25.00	\$25.00
2	Kennel	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
0	Transfer Licenses	\$ 3.00	\$ -
2120	Total Licenses		\$22,615.00
0	Late Fees	\$25.00	\$0.00
	Collected		\$22,615.00
2770	Total Licenses Collected		\$29,680.00
256	Total Late Fees	\$ 25.00	\$6,400.00
	Total Funds Collected		\$36,080.00
	Total Paid to Treasurer	\$	36,080.00

The total number of licenses issued for each of the last six years was as follows:

1997	1889
1998	2270
1999	2221
2000	2202
2001	2372
2002	2220

Respectfully submitted

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES ISSUED JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2003

#ISSUED	LICENSE	FEE	Total
114	Resident Fishing	\$22.50	\$2,565.00
3	Resident Minor Fishing	\$6.50	\$19.50
9	Resident Fishing (Age 65-69)	\$11.25	\$101.25
22	Resident Fishing Handicapped	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Non-resident Fishing	\$32.50	\$0.00
1	Non-resident Fishing 3-Day	\$18.50	\$18.50
0	Resident Fishing 3-Day	\$6.50	\$0.00
0	Resident Trapping	\$30.50	\$0.00
0	Resident Trapping Minor	\$6.50	\$0.00
1	Resident Trapping (Age 65-69)	\$15.25	\$15.25
0	Duplicate Fishing	\$2.50	\$0.00
0	Duplicate Trapping		
150	Total Fishing Licenses		\$2,719.50
35	Resident Hunting	\$22.50	\$787.50
2	Resident Hunting (Age 65-69)	\$11.25	\$22.50
0	Resident Hunting Paraplegic	\$	\$0.00
0	Resident Alien Hunting	\$22.50	\$0.00
0	Non-Resident Hunting, Big Game	\$94.50	\$0.00
1	Non-Resident Hunting, Small Game	\$60.50	\$60.50
1	Resident Citizen Minor Hunting	\$6.50	\$6.50
42	Resident Sporting	\$40.00	\$1,680.00
4	Resident Sporting (Age 65-69)	\$20.00	\$80.00
43	Resident Sporting (Over 70)	\$	\$
2	Duplicate Hunting	\$2.50	\$5.00
0	Duplicate Sporting	\$2.00	\$
130	Total Sporting Licenses		\$2,642.00
42	Archery Stamps	\$5.10	\$214.20
31	Waterfowl Stamps	\$5.00	\$155.00
35	Primitive Firearms Stamp	\$5.10	\$178.50
212	Wildland Conservation Stamps (Residents)	\$5.00	\$1,060.00
0	Wildland Conservation Stamps (Non-Residents)	\$5.00	\$0.00
320	Total Stamps Issued		\$1,607.70
280	Total Licenses Issued		\$5,361.50
600	Total Licenses and Stamps Issued		\$6,969.20
213	Additional Fees to Town	\$1.00	\$213.00
	Total Deposited for Fish & Wildlife		\$7,182.20

213 License Fees Deducted	\$0.50	\$106.50
31 Waterfowl Stamp Fees Deducted	\$0.25	\$7.75
77 Archery Stamp Fees Deducted	\$0.10	\$7.70
321 Total Fees Deducted Licenses & Stamps		<u>\$121.95</u>
213 Additional Fees Paid to Town of Easton	\$1.00	<u>\$213.00</u>
Total Fees deducted		<u>\$334.95</u>
Total Paid to Fisheries & Wildlife		\$6,847.25

The total number of licenses for each of the last six years was as follows:

(Licenses and Stamps)	(First 6 Months)	1996	805
(Licenses and Stamps)		1997	902
(Licenses and Stamps)		1998	950
(Licenses and Stamps)		1999	895
(Licenses and Stamps)		2000	819
Licenses and Stamps)		2001	759

Respectfully submitted

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Easton Fire & Rescue Department for the year 2003.

OPERATIONS

Once again, the demand for Fire Department services has increased. The department responded to a total of 3185 incidents in 2003 (189 more than the previous year). A total of 4956 pieces of apparatus were utilized to handle those incidents. The department responded to 44 fires in structures, 30 brush fires, 19 vehicle fires, and 37 other types of fires. The department also responded to 1191 medical emergencies and 481 automobile accidents. A total of 982 patients were transported to local hospitals. The remainder of the responses can be categorized as either investigations of potentially hazardous situations or public service calls.

The department is currently staffed with 32 uniformed personnel. We are under-staffed for a department that is required to cover 29.4 square miles and protect approximately 24,000 residents. We have 3 unfilled vacancies (positions lost through attrition). For several years now our staffing level remains below what it was back in the late 1980s (35 personnel). As a result of the staffing shortage, one of our 3 fire stations (Station # 2 on Depot St.) had to be closed for a considerable amount of time during the year. Unfortunately this trend will continue until additional staffing can be hired. Closing a station is a dangerous practice for several reasons. First of all, due to the size of the town and the poor road networking system (as pointed out by the Fire Study conducted by consultants in 1997.), three stations are needed to provide adequate coverage. With a station closed, the response times increase. In an emergency situation time can be a critical factor in determining the outcome of that situation. Secondly, the reason a station is closed is due to insufficient on-duty personnel to man the apparatus. We man our apparatus with only 2 firefighters (far below the accepted minimum national standard of 4). With insufficient staffing, the safety of the personnel responding to the needs of the community is jeopardized. Closing a station also hinders our ability to respond to multiple calls. With increasing frequency there are times when all available on-duty personnel are committed to one call leaving no one available to respond to the next incident. We do have a method in place to call back off-duty personnel, but the number of call back personnel is minimal and unpredictable. We are forced to rely on mutual aid apparatus to respond to calls in our own town. Mutual aid is a vital part of any emergency response system, but the response times can be lengthy.

To emphasize how critical the situation has become, in 2003 Easton Fire Department apparatus (fire trucks and ambulances) responded on mutual aid to assist all our surrounding communities 82 times. Yet we had to call apparatus in from other communities 168 times to assist us. As mentioned above there were 982 patients transported to area hospitals last year. 137 of those patients were transported by out of town ambulances. Not only were there delays in providing emergency service waiting for the mutual aid ambulances to arrive, but there was also a loss of revenue to the Town of Easton (the transporting ambulance bills for services). From the chart below, you can see that each year we are increasingly relying on our neighboring communities to provide the services we cannot provide with current staffing levels.

Patients transported by mutual aid ambulances

1997 = 62 or 6.9%
1998 = 68 or 7.7%
1999 = 80 or 9.4%
2000 = 116 or 10.3%
2001 = 103 or 10.2%
2002 = 125 or 12.7%
2003 = 137 or 14%

Mutual aid is a concept that has been utilized by the fire service for over a century. It is a system designed to help every city and town deal with those unusual incidents that a community cannot handle on their own. After the events of September 11, 2001 local fire and police departments are expected to be the "first line of defense" against terrorist activities and events involving weapons of mass destruction. However with current staffing levels, we must rely on mutual aid just the handle the day-to-day routine calls. With all neighboring cities and towns experiencing cuts in local aid, mutual aid may not be as reliable as it has been in the past. This will further reduce our ability to provide the emergency services expected and demanded by the citizens of Easton.

Additional Under-Staffing issue

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Department of Public Health / Office of Emergency Medical Services continues to impose regulations on cities and towns without providing the necessary funding to ensure that the regulations they impose can be carried out. We have provided an Advance Life Support Ambulance service to the Town of Easton since 1995. This allows our paramedics to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care available to our citizens. New regulations go into effect on March 1, 2004 that require us to have a paramedic on-duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We only have 2 paramedics scheduled to work each shift. With vacation and Holiday time to be utilized, this new regulation will place a tremendous monetary burden (overtime costs) on the department and the paramedics themselves to ensure compliance with the new regulations. Additional firefighter / paramedics must be added in order to continue providing the level of care demanded not only by our citizens but also by the receiving emergency room medical staffs at the area hospitals. If we are not able to comply with the new regulations, we risk losing our ambulance license.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Firefighting and emergency medical training are vital to ensuring that the Easton Fire and Rescue Department is able to respond effectively and efficiently to the many calls for assistance that we receive. Most of the training is conducted "in-service" while the personnel are on duty, but many members take advantage of training and educational opportunities on their own "off-duty" time. Captain James Walsh is the department's training officer and coordinates the training activities. We frequently work directly with the instructors and training staff of the Department of Fire Services Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. This ensures that firefighting practices and procedures keep pace with new advances in technology. As expected, many of the training opportunities currently available deal with terrorism preparedness.

On an annual basis all EMTs, from the basic level to the paramedic level, are required to complete many hours of continuing education in order to improve their ability to deliver high quality medical care. Our Advanced Life Support coordinator FF / Paramedic Evan Malone conducts a lot of the medical training for department members along with offering CPR and first-aid training to various groups in the community

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FIRE PREVENTION

The most important function of any Fire & Rescue Department is to prevent the occurrence of situations that produce injury, death, destruction to property or negatively impact our environment. We try to accomplish this through our Public Education and Fire Prevention division.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Program is now in its 9th year. This program is a cooperative effort between firefighters, school principals, teachers, and students. The program was originally developed and funded through a state grant. This year, due to cuts in the state's budget, the grant funding was significantly less than what was received in previous years. However, I am very proud to say that this extremely important and successful program was presented to elementary school students, all though on a "scaled back" manner through the determined efforts of Captain Dave Beals, FF Larry Blye and FF Chris Mills. We hope that the grant funding will be restored in the future in order to assist us with expanding the program to reach other groups in the community.

The demands on the Fire Prevention office are continuing to increase. A great deal of new construction is taking place in Easton at this time. Captain John Howard is the department's fire prevention officer. He is responsible for reviewing the construction plans for all new buildings to ensure they meet the ever-changing fire codes. He is also responsible for conducting hundreds of inspections throughout the year. In

addition to the annual inspection of all businesses licensed by the town, all schools and nursing homes were inspected. The following were also completed, 137 residential plan reviews, 409 smoke detector inspections, 107 oil burning equipment inspections, 49 propane fuels storage inspections, 15 commercial sprinkler system installation or revision inspections, and 12 commercial fire alarm system installation or revision inspections.

Once again our annual "open house" was conducted at the start of Fire Prevention Week in October. The event was very well attended. I would like to thank Papa Gino's, Shaws Supermarket, and Roche Brothers Market for their sponsorship. I would also like to thank the Easton Firefighters and family members who gave of their time and effort to ensure a successful event.

FIRE ALARM

Captain James Walsh and FF William Wolffe performed repairs and maintenance procedures to the municipal fire alarm system. Several new radio activated fire alarm boxes were installed during the year. Master alarm boxes activated by a building's internal fire alarm system were installed at the following locations; Stonehill College Casino Hall Dormitory, the Vieira Office Building, Queset on the Pond, Roche Brothers Market, and the new CVS Pharmacy. New street boxes were added to the following new developments; Twin Brooks Estates and Hearthstone Estates.

In 2001, it was recommended that the Fire Alarm Bucket Truck be replaced. The vehicle has been out of service since October of 2002. We were forced to rent a bucket truck in order to perform emergency repairs as well as routine fire alarm system maintenance. This is not a cost effective way to do business. Funding in the fire alarm account will only support a rental truck for 4 months out of the year. The town is responsible for maintaining the municipal fire alarm system. Attempting to make repairs to the system without the use of a bucket is extremely dangerous and time consuming. **The bucket truck must be replaced.**

APPARATUS AND STATIONS

At the annual town meeting in June, town meeting voters approved of the purchase of a new pumper and a new ambulance. The specifications for both vehicles have been developed and by the end of the fiscal year the two new pieces of apparatus should be in service. The new pumper will replace a 1974 Maxim (Engine # 5) and the new ambulance will replace a 1996 unit. I want to thank Firefighters Larry Blye, John White, Fred Chute, and Dave McRae. They served as members of an equipment committee that volunteered their time to work on the specifications for both pieces of apparatus. Their dedication will insure that the new ambulance and new pumper will serve the Town of Easton well for many years.

Voters also approved of funding to refurbish a 1992 pumper (Engine # 1). As soon as the new pumper is placed in service, Engine # 1 will be sent out for reconditioning. The remaining front-line apparatus is in good condition. Our only reserve-pumping engine is Engine # 4 (a 1981 Mack). This vehicle is 23 years old, in need of repairs, and does not have many of the safety features of a newer piece of apparatus. This combined with the fact that Engine # 3 (1987 pumper) was taken out of service in 2001 and never replaced makes it extremely important that a new pumper be purchased as soon as possible. This will allow us to have a very reliable pumper to put into service when one of the front-line units is out for repairs or routine servicing.

The Easton Fire Department acquired a used military vehicle from the Department of Environmental Management / Forestry Division. It is a 1975 model that will be used to replace the 1968 unit we currently have in service. My thanks to Firefighters Larry Blye, Glenn Corbett, and Jim Welsh who have put in many hours to dismantle the equipment on the older truck and install it on the newer model. Protective bars were also added. When completed the truck will be utilized as a brush and forestry fire unit.

As I mentioned previously, the Fire Alarm Bucket Truck is out of service and needs to be replaced.

Fire Station # 2 on Depot Street, our oldest station, is in need of repairs or replacement. This station was built in 1934 under a Federal WPA project. The Fire Study committee concluded that a three-station configuration is necessary to adequately cover the Town. Of our three stations, the Depot Street station is

most ideally located. It offers immediate access to the Town's only major east / west connector (Route 123) and it's main north / south connector (Route 138). The Town will face some financially difficult years in the near future. But the Town must decide to either make some major repairs to the present Depot Street Station or build a new building.

PERSONNEL

In August of 2002 Firefighter / Paramedic Richard Salve was placed on active military duty. For approximately 12 months, his unit was deployed in Afghanistan. Rich was sorely missed but I am happy to report that he did return safely home and back to work in September of 2003. Thank you Rich for being ready and willing to give up so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy and often take for granted. I would like to thank Veterans Agent Steve Nolan and all the members of the "Operation Mail Call" committee for giving the members of the fire department a means to stay in touch with Rich during his absence.

The members of the Easton Fire & Rescue Department continue to donate many hours of their own time in order to ensure that the department responds efficiently to the needs of the community. I would like to thank all of them for their commitment to this effort.

Mission Statement:

"The Easton Fire & Rescue Department is committed to protecting the people, property, and environment within our community. We will be responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well being of the community. We will accomplish our mission through fire prevention, fire safety awareness education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide a product deemed excellent by our citizens. ALWAYS READY, PROUD TO SERVE".

NEW PHONE NUMBERS

Some of the Fire Department phone numbers have changed.

TO REPORT A FIRE OR ANY EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

For other Fire Department business or assistance, Dial 508-230-3311

Please make note that the phone numbers for the Administrative offices and Fire Prevention Division have changed. New Numbers:

Chief's Office 508-230-0750

Fire Prevention Office 508-230-0750

Fax Number 508-238-2891

CONCLUSION

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the officers, firefighters, and the department's administrative secretary as well as the Town Administrator, all the Department heads and members of the various Town boards and committees for their assistance over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas F. Stone, Fire Chief

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

www.eastonpd.com

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Year 2003.

This past year we had Detective Larry Cole retire after 24 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Easton, Patrolman James Baroud transferred to the Brockton Police Department, and Chief Stanley Bates was placed on injured status in May due to health related problems. Lt. Thomas Kominsky was appointed as Acting Chief. Two former patrolmen returned to the Easton Police Department, Robert Tuohy and Brandon Walkus. Officer Keith Nunes returned safely from serving over-seas. Lee Harney from the Board of Appeals department took the part-time position of Administrative Secretary to the Chief of Police.

Patrolman Lonnie Ataman was appointed Traffic Enforcement Officer. His time is now dedicated specifically to enforce the laws regarding traffic. The need to reduce speeding in the Town has been addressed with this appointment, thus making the roads safer for all that travel them.

Sadly, the D.A.R.E. program has been cut due to budget constraints and lack of State Grant funds for fiscal year 2004. Officer George Allen stepped down as the D.A.R.E. Officer and is now the Civil Rights Officer.

In June the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission awarded Certification to the department. Easton is the eighth police department in the Commonwealth to achieve this distinction. This honor demonstrates the department's commitment to delivering an exemplary level of police service to our community.

Although there are not as many grants available our department continues to apply for State and Federal Grants. Below is a list of grants received for the fiscal year 2003:

State Community Oriented Policing Grant
Copeland Fund Grant for D.A.R.E.
Federal Grant Violence Against Women
State 2003 D.A.R.E. Grant
Private Donation to D.A.R.E.
State Police Vest Grant
Executive Office of Public Safety-State Anti-Terrorism
Governor's Highway Safety Bureau - Traffic Enforcement

We hosted our fourth Senior Citizen Prom in co-ordination with the TRIAD program. The senior community was introduced to the new Bristol County Sheriffs Department mobile command center and the response capabilities of their terrorism unit. TRIAD continues its effort to ensure free reflective house numbers, which enables emergency personnel to locate senior residences in emergency situations. Volunteers have already installed three hundred of these free numbers. Other activities for the year include a chicken barbecue, a financial seminar, and involvement in "Operation Mail Call". The executive board adopted servicemen and women serving over seas and mailed them letters of support, International phone cards, and PX gift cards for the holidays.

Officer Denise Papagno is continuing to chair The Easton Family Violence Task Force. This program continued their efforts to reduce family violence and promote safety and support for victims. In addition, the task force sponsored an anti-bullying program and an anti-dating violence program in the Easton Public Schools. They continue to provide outreach and public awareness programs in conjunction with HUGS II. (Help Us Get Safe)

Our thanks go out to volunteers Betty Verity, Cathy DeMayo, and Phyllis Gallo for their many hours of service. Their hard work is very much appreciated in these difficult financial times.

2003 STATISTICS

11002

TOTAL INCIDENTS**E 9-1-1 CALL VOLUME**

Total Primary Calls Answered	3061
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CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Murder	0
Suicides	1
Attempted Suicides	17
Rapes	3
Sexual Assaults	4
Robberies	1
Assault & Battery/Weapons	5
Assault & Battery	49

PROPERTY CRIMES**BREAK & ENTRIES**

B & E Residence	28
B & E Motor Vehicle	50
B & E Business	25
B & E Attempts	16

LARCENIES

Larcenies over \$250	79
Larcenies under \$250	96
Larceny of Motor Vehicles	11
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles	14
Shoplifting	17

In Custody

ARRESTS	236
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	49
Protective Custody	32

MISCELLANEOUS TYPES

Domestic Situations	193
Domestic Violence	45
Disturbance	83
Disorderly Persons	5
Noise Complaints	150
General Service	850
Missing Persons	28
Vandalism	315
Alarms	1577
Annoying Phone Calls	74
Animal Complaints	371
Barking Dog Complaints	39

ACCIDENTS

Fatal Accidents	3
Property Damage Accidents	639
Personal Injury Accidents	122

PERMITS & CITATIONS

Traffic Citations	1700
Pistol Permits Issued	262
F.I.D. (Firearms Identification) Cards Issued	40

Note: Sergeant Dan O'Reilly has taken on the entire responsibility of issuing pistol permits and firearms identification cards due to the ever-decreasing number of personnel. He is to be recognized, as this is a tremendous, time-consuming assignment.

Firearms I. Internal Affairs Annual Summary

This report is prepared in accordance with the Easton Police Department's policy on Internal Affairs (WDS 2000-07). The following is a summary of complaints investigated by the Officer-in-Charge of Internal Affairs. The summary is divided into two types of complaints:

1. Complaints made by individuals outside the department (External)
2. Complaints generated from within the department. (Internal)

In calendar year 2003 there was one complaint investigated by the Officer-in-Charge of Internal Affairs.

EXTERNAL: A citizen made this one complaint. and the allegation was not sustained.

INTERNAL: None

Definitions:

- (1) **SUSTAINED:** The complaint was valid and supported by sufficient evidence;
- (2) **NOT SUSTAINED:** There was inadequate or insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the complaint;
- (3) **SUSTAINED OTHER:** Sustaining of violation or misconduct other than the allegations of the original complaint;
- (4) **UNFOUNDED:** The allegations were baseless and without foundation; or
- (5) **EXONERATED:** The complaint was unjustified or unwarranted as the actions of the accused department employee were in compliance with law or in accordance with department policy and procedure.

POLICY FAILURE - although the action of the agency or the officer was consistent with agency policy, the complainant was wronged. Policy review will be conducted.

PROBLEMS OR COMMENTS

Acting Chief Thomas Kominsky: tkominsky@easton.ma.us
Lieutenant Allen Krajcik: akrajcik@easton.ma.us
Telephone Number: 508-230-3322

MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

"The mission of the Easton Police Department is to protect life, property and the constitutional rights of all citizens. This can be achieved by working in harmony with the community we serve, committed to the conviction that by working together our community has the ability to form its own destiny."

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kominsky
Acting Police Chief

2003 REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL

The Animal Control Department is responsible for enforcing state, county and local animal laws, protecting citizens from intimidation and injury from animals, and protecting animals from health hazards, especially rabies, as well as abuse, neglect and inhumane treatment.

The animal control officers for the Town of Easton may be reached by calling (508)230-3353 in case of an emergency (508)230-3322.

We would like to thank all of the owners who are in compliance with the license laws. Licensing your dog is a valuable tool because it gives us information about rabies vaccination and ownership of the dog. This information is extremely important to us in case of a bite incident, or contact between your dog and wildlife, or if a vehicle strikes your dog.

A rabies vaccination by law is required for cats. A collar to identify the owner of your cat would be of great assistance in getting the cat returned to the owner if found.

We would like to thank Sue Heath for her time and effort in composing a list of all dog owners in the town. This is an invaluable tool for following up on unlicensed dogs.

Eight animals were submitted to the State Lab Virology Division for testing. There were two bats, one cat, two dogs, on squirrel, one fox and one woodchuck. We had one bat which tested positive.

West Nile Virus is still around. We sent six birds into the lab to be tested. The Massachusetts Department of Public health has new protocols for submitting dead birds to the State lab. They are as follows; Specimen is a crow or blue jay, has been dead less than twenty four hours, and is intact and free of maggots, flies and ants.

ANIMAL CONTROL STATISTICS

Calls Received	2221
Complaints	1443
General Info	778
Missing Animals	301
Dogs Picked Up	46
Dead Animals	226

Thirty-seven dogs were returned to their owners or adopted. None dogs were turned over to the MSPCA. Every possible attempt is made to find homes for unwanted animals.

Calls for sightings of wildlife are increasing due to the diminishing of their habitat. This is bringing them closer to the populated areas to find food. Make sure dog and cat food are not left outside and garbage is properly covered.

We are continuing to pursue owners of unlicensed dogs, unleashed dogs, dog bites, and nuisance complaints with hearings held at the Police Station. This is part of the Police Department's efforts to reach out to the community, using a Community Oriented Policy Philosophy. Lieutenant Allen Krajcik has conducted numerous hearings at the station with many complaints being solved. This also saves our citizens from going to Taunton District Court and missing work but unfortunately we had thirty-two cases.

Dead animals picked up; Twenty-four skunks, thirty-two cats, thirty-one raccoons, thirty-seven deer, twenty-seven squirrels, seven foxes, eight opossums, five dogs, one fisher, four bats, two geese, three hawks, four coyotes, three woodchucks, one snake, one mink, one turtle, one otter and thirty four birds.

We would like to thank the Police Chief, Dispatchers, members of the Police and Fire Departments, Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Health and the DPW for their cooperation and support.

Respectfully submitted,

John Melin, Animal Control Officer
Elizabeth DeRosa, Animal Control Officer

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERMANENT LANDFILL COMMITTEE

On November 6, 2000, the Board Of Selectmen established a Permanent Landfill Committee with the charge to

“oversee the continued and post-closure maintenance of the Easton Landfill and report to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee shall meet as deemed necessary during the continued closure and have access to tour the landfill property as deemed necessary. The Committee’s role post-closure may include review of all proposed uses of the landfill property and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee will provide input to the Board of Selectmen regarding ongoing operational and maintenance plan.”

January 2003 was the third year for the operation of the Permanent Landfill Committee. The year began by reviewing a Bid Alternate and proposed change order in the amount of \$695,000 for site preparation in order to convert portions of the Landfill to Recreational Use. After lengthy review and discussions with Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM, the Project Manager), ET&L (the Contractor) and the Board Of Selectmen; the Permanent Landfill Committee unanimously voted to reject the Bid Alternate and advised the Board Of Selectmen accordingly. In March, the Permanent Landfill Committee reviewed and approved a change order for a Sulfa-Test System to aid in the reduction of odors emanating from the capped Landfill.

In March 2003, ET&L returned to the Landfill to complete the capping. Due to significant odors from the Landfill, extra carbon canisters were installed awaiting the installation of the Active Flare System and the Sulfa-Test System. Besides work on the Landfill “footprint”, ET&L commenced work on the stone walls on Prospect Street. The Landfill Committee was aware of potential problems arising from noise and truck traffic at the Landfill and requested that the CDM Resident Engineer closely monitor and report on these items. In April 2003, bi-weekly Project Meetings were held at the Landfill with CDM, ET&L, Easton DPW Director, Town Administrator and a representative from the Landfill Committee at attendance. These Project Meeting proved to be extremely beneficial and resulted in a comprehensive Progress Report being submitted to the Board Of Selectmen by the Town Administrator.

By mid-July, the Landfill was completely capped with the HDPE liner and loam placement. Notwithstanding the progress on the Landfill, the Landfill Committee was presented with various change orders for time extensions that were due to the previous year’s inclement weather and lead time in ordering and installation of the Sulfa-Test System and delay by the utility company running electrical power to the Active Flare System. Although these change orders were basically a “no cost time extension”, they did require CDM to stay on-site for longer than anticipated. The Landfill Committee received, reviewed and approved these change orders as well as approving a new contract with CDM to cover monitoring and maintenance of the Landfill.

By October 2003, hydroseeding was completed, permanent power installed, landscaping and installation of a new front gate were accomplished. During this period, the Landfill Committee was presented with a change order package that include certain unresolved items as sand thickness, additional work performed outside the Landfill footprint, loss of productivity and additional road work. Due to the nature and complexity of this change order package, the Landfill Committee held several meeting with CDM to understand the nature, rationale and causes of these change orders. After considerable discussions, the Landfill unanimously voted and recommended to the Board Of Selectmen that CDM be allowed to negotiate a total package for all of the subject change orders. As a result, CDM effectively reduced ET&L’s claim downwards by 33%.

On October 10, 2003, the Landfill Project was considered to be “substantially complete”. This is a construction term used to describe the status of a project that for all intents and purposes is completed except for minor “punch list items” that will be completed in the Spring of 2004. As of November 12, 2003, the budget for the Landfill Project is as follows;

Summary Of Available Landfill Funds As Of November 21, 2003			
Projected Budget		3,436,177.74	
Paid Expenses	2,625,577.13		
Outstanding Encumbrances	296,283.39		
Anticipated Expenses	2,775.00		
Total Actual and Anticipated Expenses		2,924,635.52	
Balance Remaining			511,542.22

Notwithstanding previous attempts to close and cap the Landfill, the current project was basically completed on time and well under budget. This is indicative of the dedication and professionalism of all those individuals who participated in this Landfill Project. The year 2004 will bring new challenges to the Landfill Committee which will include post construction items such as monitoring, testing and maintenance of the Easton Landfill.

Respectfully submitted,

Voting Members

Henry Mehler, Chairman
 Gil Heino, Vice Chairman
 Jay Conceison, Secretary
 Todd Heino
 Richard Harb

Ex-Officio

Martha White, Ass't Town Administrator
 Wayne Southworth, DPW Director
 David Brown, Finance Committee

2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF SELF HELP INC.

During the program year ending September 30, 2003, Self Help, Inc., received a total funding of approximately \$18.7M and provided services to 21,381 limited income households in the area.

In the TOWN OF EASTON, Self Help provides services totaling \$245,978 to 261 households during program year 2003.

Self Help's total funding of \$19,191,681 does not tell the real value of services delivered to the area as a whole. This funding enabled us mobilize an additional \$1,495,239 of other community resources such as, volunteers, donations of space, and private donations in the form of goods and services. Therefore, the total impact of Self Help, Inc., during the past program year was \$20,686,920.

In addition, Self Help currently employs 285 individuals. Many of these individuals are of limited income, and most reside in our service area.

We feel that October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003 was a successful program year for us because we were able to assist as many individuals and/or families as we did, regardless of the challenges of being a human service provider.

We thank the Board of Selectmen of Westwood and all the volunteers for helping us to make fiscal year 2003 a successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wang
Executive Assistant/Human Resources

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Gymnasium in said Easton on Monday, the 13th day of January, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

*SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, January 13, 2003*

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard C. Dailey at 7:12 p.m. with both the Gymnasium and Auditorium filled to capacity.

The following were voted admittance to the Hall by Unanimous vote.: DEPARTMENT HEADS: (Per Charter Section 2-4 Shall Attend Town Meeting) Martha L. White, Assistant Town Administrator; Janet Andrus Linehan, Town Clerk; Anne Carney, Assistant Assessor; Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant; John L. Nunes, Treasurer/Collector; William Simmons, School Superintendent; Wade Saucier, Health Director; Marc Rousseau, Planner; Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager; D. Mark Trivett, Building Inspector; John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent. OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES: Michael Green, Ed. D., Assistant to Superintendent; Marilyn Gordon, School Business Manager; Robert Smith, School Principal; Gary Mazzola, School Principal; Annalee Bundy, Library Director; Eric Davis, Data Processing. OTHERS: Ellen Callahan Doucette, Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel; Loren Belida, Charlene Dalrymple & Michael Tibet re School Project; James J. Hager, Supt. Southeastern Regional School District. MEDIA: Easton Journal: Aaron Goveia; Media One: Robyn Souza; Enterprise: Ryan McLane. REPRESENTATIVES: Congressman Stephen Lynch and James Gordon, Aide; State Senators Robert Creedon and Brian Joyce; State Representatives Geraldine Creedon, David Flynn, Christine Canavan. MICROPHONE CARRIERS: Hugh Harlow, Gregory McIlhatten, Caroline Mullen, Nishita Nicky, Arslonbeck Kamoliddinovich Tishaboev, Zachary Waksman; Scott King, Douglas A. King Builders, Michael Richard, Union Villa; Chris Wong, May East Restaurant; Neil Levine, Maguire's Restaurant Robbie Martin, Chris Fogg, Jimmy Cardella for Boy Scout Communications Merit Badge; Catherine Salisbury, South Easton Regional Services Group Tobacco Control Program Edna Donoghue, American Cancer Society.

As there was a break in the cable line connecting the Gymnasium to the Auditorium, the start of the meeting was delayed for approximately 2 hours. During the delay, Moderator Dailey reviewed procedures used at Town Meetings. He also explained that Deputy Moderators John Creedon would be presiding in the Auditorium and John A. Keach, Jr. in the Annex. All speaking will be done in the gymnasium. Instructions given to voters as to how to proceed if they want to speak.

Also during the delay, Congressman Stephen Lynch and State Senator Brian Joyce addressed the voters.

Scott Dalton was the voter who discovered the break in the wiring, obtained wire and wired it with a backup audio. The system was working earlier today and inadvertently the line was broken.

The following were duly sworn as counters in the Gymnasium by Town Clerk Janet Linehan: Barry Dunkley, Michael Boyle, Jonathan Richman, Meredith Rizzo, Colleen Corona, Bruce Baker, Arthur

Williams, Leo Turcotte, Karen Grant, Gerald Randall, Herbert Voss, Hugh McLaughlin. The following were duly sworn as counters in the Auditorium by Assistant Town Clerk Jean Shearing: William Jones, Richard Harb, Irwin Brown, Steve Brady, Robert Comeau, Carol Levinsky, Susan Kelly, Elliott Slom, Avery Williams, Robert Tarallo, Richard Devins.

The meeting re-convened at 8:55 p.m.

*Selectmen Jeffrey Tufts apologized for the delay. A motion was made and seconded to take Article 22 out of order. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the cost of architectural services for plans and specifications and other related preliminary expenses, including project manager services, and for the construction of additions to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Easton Junior High School and the Oliver Ames High School, including original equipment and furnishings and related site improvements; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by School Planning Committee)

MOVED to appropriate \$1,900,000 for the cost of architectural services for plans and specifications and other related preliminary expenses, including project manager services relating to the construction of additions to, and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Easton Junior High School and the Oliver Ames High School and that \$66,000,000 is appropriated for the construction of additions to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Easton Junior High School and the Oliver Ames High School, including original equipment and furnishings and related site improvements; that to meet these appropriations the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$67,900,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or Chapter 70B of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; and that the Municipal Building and School Planning Committees are authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however that no debt may be incurred under this vote for either school project, except for the \$1,900,000 borrowing authorized for the cost of architectural services for plans and specifications and other related preliminary expenses, including project manager services, until the state department of education has included the Town's application for a state School Facilities Grant for such school projects on its list of completed project applications showing the priority assigned.

A request for secret ballot was called and at least 29 other voters concurred. A Secret ballot will be taken.

*1,885 votes were cast – **1,296 YES, 589 NO.** VOTE CARRIES BY TWO-THIRDS.*

*Motion was made to reconsider Article 22. **NOT A VOTE.***

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, \$67,665.00 for the purpose of the abatement of asbestos in the Easton Junior High School boiler room and \$39,425.00 for the purpose of the abatement of asbestos in the crawl spaces of the Center School. Funds needed for the abatement of asbestos for the Easton Junior High School and the Center School totals \$107,090.00, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$67,665 for the purpose of the abatement of asbestos in the Easton Junior High School boiler room and \$39,425.00 for the purpose of the abatement of asbestos in the crawl spaces of the Center School. **VOTED.***

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds received from the state pursuant to Chapter 246 of the Acts of 2002 the sum of \$331,091.91 for the construction, reconstruction or improvement of public roads and sidewalks, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of said funds, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from funds received from the state pursuant to Chapter 246 of the Acts of 2002 the sum of \$331,091.91 for the construction, reconstruction or improvement of public roads and sidewalks, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contracts for the expenditure of said funds. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement existing budgets for the fiscal year 2003, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$228,269, and from Water Surplus the amount of \$21,567 to supplement existing budgets for the fiscal year 2003, as follows:

Town Counsel	\$30,000
Library	\$5,727
Debt Service	\$91,913
Water Division debt service	\$21,567
Unclassified (insurance)	\$100,629
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$249,836

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to purchase a Police cruiser, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$33,000 to purchase a police cruiser. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of employee sick and vacation buy-back amounts, for employees retiring during the fiscal year 2003, as well as any other costs required to be paid by collective bargaining contract or Town by-law, or take any other action relative there to. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$22,248 to pay the cost of employee sick and vacation buy-back amounts for employees retiring during the fiscal year 2003, as well as any other costs required to be paid by collective bargaining contract or town by-law. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$400,000 to be placed in the stabilization fund. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the Unemployment Compensation Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$50,000 to be placed in the Unemployment Compensation Fund. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money from the purpose of paying the difference between the salary received by Town employees and the salary these same employees will receive while on duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, during the period of time they are activated for service, and any related military service during or thereafter, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$39,347 for the purpose of paying the difference between the salary received by town employees and the salary these same employees will receive while on duty with the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of time they are activated for service, and any related military service during or thereafter. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, **GREYSTONE WAY**, as a public way pursuant to MGL Ch. 82 from station 0 + 00 to station 18 + 57.43 as shown on two plans of land, one being entitled Greystone Acres, prepared by Land Surveys, Incorporated, dated December 21, 1981, revised April 8, 1982 approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on May 5, 1982 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 197, Page 61, and the second plan being entitled Greystone Acres Section II, prepared by Land Surveys, Incorporated, dated February 3, 1984 approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on June 20, 1984, together with a 20' wide drainage easement across Lots 5, 6, and 7 as shown on the Greystone Acres Section II plan and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to MGL Ch. 40, s. 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to accept GREYSTONE WAY as a public way pursuant to MGL Ch. 82 from station 0 + 00 to station 18 + 57.43 as shown on two plans of land, one being entitled Greystone Acres, prepared by Land Surveys, Incorporated, dated December 21, 1981, revised April 8, 1982, as printed in the Warrant. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, specifically by inserting therein a new chapter, to be inserted as Chapter 16, said Chapter to be entitled "Historical Commission" which said chapter shall read as follows:

Chapter 16

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| § 16-1 Authority. | § 16-5 Officers. |
| § 16-2 Purpose. | § 16-6 Annual report. |
| § 16-3 Appointment; terms of office. | § 16-7 Staff. |
| § 16-4 Vacancies. | |

§ 16-1 Authority.

This by-law is enacted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 8D which was accepted at the 1969 Annual Town Meeting.

§ 16-2 Purpose.

The Historical Commission is established for the preservation, protection and development of the historical and archeological assets of the Town. The Historical Commission shall have the duties and powers set forth in M.G.L. c. 40, § 8D.

§ 16-3 Appointment; terms of office.

The Historical Commission numbers shall serve terms of three years each. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint the Historical Commission members. The Historical Commission shall consist of seven members. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint successors to the present members when each member's term expires.

§ 16-4 Vacancies.

Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the membership of the Commission by reason of death, resignation, inability to act or for any other reason, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Selectmen for the remainder of the term.

§ 16-5 Officers.

The Commission, at its first annual meeting and thereafter annually in July of each year, shall elect from its membership a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary. Each officer shall hold office until the next annual election. In the event a vacancy occurs in any of the offices above, the Commission shall hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing one of its members to fill such vacancy.

§ 16-6 Annual report.

The Commission shall prepare and submit an annual report of its activities to the town.

§ 16-7 Staff.

The Commission may appoint such clerks and other employees as it may require.

or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Historical Commission)

MOVED to approve Article 10 as printed in the warrant, except to delete section 16-7, and to correct a typographical error in Section 16-3, to read "The Historical Commission members," not "Historical Commission numbers."

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, specifically by inserting therein a new chapter, to be inserted as Chapter 114 which shall be entitled "Buildings, Demolition of" which said chapter shall read as follows:

Chapter 114

BUILDINGS, DEMOLITION OF

§ 114-1. Intent and Purpose

This bylaw is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting significant buildings within the Town of Easton that constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, economic, political, or social history of the town and to limit the detrimental effect of demolition on the character of the town. Through this bylaw, owners of preferably preserved buildings are encouraged to seek out alternative options that will preserve, rehabilitate or restore such buildings, and residents of the town are alerted to impending demolitions of significant buildings. By preserving and protecting significant buildings, this bylaw promotes the public welfare by making the town a more attractive and desirable place in which to live and work. To achieve these purposes the Easton Historical Commission is authorized to advise the Building Inspector with respect to the issuance of demolition permits that are regulated as provided by this bylaw.

§ 114-2. Definitions

APPLICANT - Any person or entity who files an application for a demolition permit. If the applicant is not the owner of the premises upon which the building is situated, the owner must indicate on or with the application his/her assent to the filing of the application.

APPLICATION - An application for the demolition of a building.

BUILDING - Any combination of materials forming a shelter for persons, animals, or property.

DEMOLITION - Any act of pulling down, destroying, removing, dismantling or razing a building or commencing the work of total or substantial destruction with the intent of completing the same.

BUILDING INSPECTOR - The person occupying the office of Building Inspector or otherwise authorized to issue demolition permits.

COMMISSION - The Easton Historical Commission or its designee.

DEMOLITION PERMIT - The permit issued by the Building Inspector for a demolition, substantial demolition or removal of a building, excluding a demolition permit issued solely for the demolition of the interior of a building.

SIGNIFICANT BUILDING - A building determined by the Commission or its designee to be significant based on any of the following criteria:

- The Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Building has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Building is importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town of Easton or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the nation.
- The Building is historically or architecturally important (in terms of period, style, method of building construction or association with a recognized architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings.

PREFERABLY PRESERVED BUILDING - Any significant building that the Commission determines, following a public hearing, is in the public interest to be preserved rather than demolished. A preferably preserved building is subject to the twelve (12) month demolition delay period of this bylaw.

§ 114-3. Procedure

No demolition permit for a building that is in whole or in part fifty (50) or more years old shall be issued without following the provisions of this bylaw. If a building is of unknown age, it shall be assumed that the building is over 50 years old for the purposes of this bylaw.

An applicant proposing to demolish a building subject to this bylaw shall file with the Building Inspector an application containing the following information:

- The address of the building to be demolished.
- The owner's name, addresses and telephone number.
- A description of the building.
- The reasons for requesting a demolition permit.
- A brief description of the proposed reuse, reconstruction or replacement.
- A photograph or photograph(s) of the building and photos of neighboring buildings (for context).

The Building Inspector shall within seven (7) business days forward a copy of the application to the Commission. The Commission shall, within fifteen (15) business days after receipt of the application, make a determination of whether the building is significant.

Upon determination by the Commission that the building is not significant, the Commission shall so notify the Building Inspector and applicant in writing. The Building Inspector may then issue the demolition permit.

Upon determination by the Commission that the building is significant, the Commission shall so notify the Building Inspector and applicant in writing. No demolition permit may be issued at this time. If the Commission does not notify the Building Inspector within the specified time period, the Building Inspector may issue the demolition permit.

If the Commission finds that the building is significant, it shall hold a public hearing within thirty (30) days of the written notification to the Building Inspector. Public notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing shall be posted in a conspicuous place in town hall for a period of not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of said hearing, and the applicant and Building Inspector shall be notified in writing of the meeting time and place.

The Commission shall decide at the public hearing or within fourteen (14) days after the public hearing whether the building should be preferably preserved. If agreed to in writing by the applicant, the determination of the Commission may be postponed. If agreed to in writing by the applicant, the public hearing may be continued at a later date.

If the Commission determines that the building is not preferably preserved, the Commission shall so notify the Building Inspector and applicant in writing. The Building Inspector may then issue the demolition permit.

If the Commission determines that the building is preferably preserved, the Commission shall notify the Building Inspector and applicant in writing. No demolition permit may be issued for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the notification unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission. If the Commission does not notify the Building Inspector within twenty one (21) days of the public hearing, the Building Inspector may issue the demolition permit.

The Building Inspector may issue a demolition permit or building permit for a preferably preserved building within twelve (12) months if the Commission notifies the Building Inspector in writing that the commission finds that the intent and purpose of this bylaw is served even with the issuance of the demolition permit and/or the building permit.

Following the twelve-month delay period, the Building Inspector may issue the demolition permit.

However, no permit for demolition of a building determined to be preferably preserved shall be granted, even after the twelve-month delay period has expired, until all plans for future use and development of the site have been filed with the Building Inspector and have been found to comply with all laws pertaining to the issuance of a building permit or, if for a parking lot, a certificate of occupancy for that site. All approvals necessary for the issuance of such building permit or certificate of occupancy including without limitation any necessary zoning variances or special permits, must be granted and all appeals from the granting of such approvals must be concluded, prior to the issuance of a demolition permit under this section.

§ 114-4. Administration

The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the terms of this bylaw.

The Commission is authorized to adopt a schedule of reasonable fees to cover the costs associated with the administration and review of any application that is filed under this bylaw.

The Commission may delegate authority to one or more members of the Commission.

The Commission may delegate authority to municipal staff under this bylaw.

The Commission may pro-actively develop a list of significant and/or preferably preserved buildings that will be subject to this bylaw. Buildings proposed for the significant and/or preferably preserved building list shall be added following a public hearing.

§ 114-5. Responsibility of Owners

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of record or his designee to assist in the facilitation of the above process by providing information, allowing access to the property, and securing the premises; to participate in the investigation of preservation options and to actively cooperate in seeking alternatives with the Commission and any interested parties. Such participation by the owner may include, but shall not be limited to continuing, bona fide efforts to find a buyer or alternative use for the building or structure that will result in its preservation. To assist the owner in such efforts, the Commission shall offer the owner information about options other than demolition and shall facilitate communication with resources in the preservation field such as the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other interested parties that might provide assistance in preservation, funding and/or adaptive reuse.

Upon determination by the Commission that a building or structure is a Preferably Preserved Building, the owner shall be responsible for properly securing the building, if vacant, to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector. Should the owner fail to secure the building to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector, the subsequent destruction of such building through any cause, which destruction could have been prevented by the required security measures, shall be considered a demolition in violation of this bylaw.

§ 114-6. Emergency Demolition

In the event that the Building Inspector determines or is asked to consider the condition of a building fifty (50) years or older, the Chairman of the Easton Historical Commission or designee shall be notified to

accompany the Building Inspector during his inspection. The Building Inspector shall pursue all reasonable courses of action to prevent emergency demolition of such a building which the Chairman of the Commission or designee determined is or may be a significant building, including but not limited to requiring the owner to secure it against further deterioration or danger to the public. Nothing in this bylaw shall restrict the Building Inspector from immediately ordering the demolition of unsafe structures in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 143.

Whenever the Building Inspector issues an emergency demolition permit under this Section he shall prepare a written report with attached photographic evidence describing the condition of said building or structure and the basis of the decision to issue an emergency demolition permit and provide a copy thereof to the Commission.

§ 114-7. Enforcement and Remedies

The Commission and/or the Building Inspector are each specifically authorized to institute any and all actions and proceedings, in law or equity, as they may deem necessary and appropriate to obtain compliance with the requirements of this bylaw or to prevent a threatened violation thereof.

Any owner of a building demolished without first obtaining a demolition permit in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw shall be subject to a fine of not more than Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00). Each day the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense until a faithful restoration of the demolished building is completed, or unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

If a building is demolished without first obtaining a demolition permit, no building permit shall be issued for a period of two (2) years from the date of the demolition on the subject parcel of land or any adjoining parcels of land under common ownership and control unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

§ 114-8. Historic District Act

Nothing in this bylaw shall be deemed to conflict with the provisions of the Historic District Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40C. If any of the provisions of this bylaw do so conflict, that act shall prevail.

§ 114-9. Severability

In case any section, paragraph, or part of this bylaw is for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court, every other section, paragraph, and part shall continue in full force and effect.

or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Historical Commission)

*MOVED to Commit back to the Historical Commission for revisions. **VOTED TO COMMIT.***

*The results of the vote count on Article 22 was announced at this point. 1,885 votes cast. Two thirds of 1,885 is 1,257 votes required to pass.. Opposing motion were 589 votes. In favor was 1,296 votes. A motion to RECONSIDER Article 22 was **NOT A VOTE.***

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, to amend the Town of Easton Zoning Map and rezone the following properties, owned by the Easton Conservation Commission, from Residential to Municipal and Open Space:

Assessor's Map R19, Lot 39, located on Dean Street
Assessor's Map R11, Lot 78, located at 470 Depot Street
Assessor's Map R10, Lot 156, located at 20 Armor Lane
Assessor's Map R10, Lot 160, located at 15 Roundtable Road

Assessor's Map R10, Lot 172, located at 8 Roundtable Road
and to accept the report of the Planning and Zoning Board in relation to this article,
or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Conservation Commission)

*MOVED to rezone the properties identified in the warrant from residential to Municipal and Open Space,
to amend the Town of Easton zoning map to reflect the rezoning, and to accept the report of the Planning
and Zoning Board in relation to this article. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, section 15A, to transfer the care,
custody and control of the North Easton Grammar School, located at 115 Main Street, Easton, from the
Town of Easton School Committee to the Town of Easton Board of Selectmen, for purposes of sale by the
Selectmen, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to transfer the care, custody and control of the North Easton Grammar School, located at 115
Main Street, Easton, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, section 15A, from the Town of Easton School
Committee to the Town of Easton Board of Selectmen, for purposes of sale by the Selectmen. **VOTED -
Yes 344, No 36.***

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent
domain, pursuant to MGL Chapter 79 and Chapter 40, or any other applicable law, any and all interests in
certain real property known as the North Easton Grammar School, located at 115 Main Street, Easton,
Massachusetts, being more fully described in deed dated April 16, 1917 recorded at the Bristol County
North Registry of Deeds at Book 701, Page 371, for the purpose of preserving and restoring a historic
structure located in a prominent location in the Town's center, to increase tax revenues, and to improve the
business area of the Town and, further, that said taking shall be of all interests in the property not acquired
by the Town under the 1917 deed, including without limitation any public or private rights created by the
provision in such deed limiting the property to use for school purposes only and, further, that no damages
shall be paid for the interests to be taken, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the
Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED to approve Article 14 as printed in the warrant. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, for and on behalf of the
Town, for due consideration, to grant an easement to Douglas A. King Builders, Inc. for the purpose of
installing a sewer line, said easement being described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound at the
northeasterly corner of the property known and numbered as 150 Main Street, Easton, thence N 06° 45' 00"
E for a distance of 10' +/-, thence S 83° 31' 55" E for a distance of 31.14' +/-, thence S 06° 28' 05" W for a
distance of 10' +/-, thence N 83° 31' 55" W for a distance of 31.19' +/- to the point of beginning, or to take
any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

*MOVED that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen, for and on behalf of the Town, to grant an
easement to Douglas A. King Builders, Inc. for the purpose of installing a sewer line, said easement being
described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound at the northeasterly corner of the property known and
numbered as 150 Main Street, Easton, thence N 06° 45' 00" E for a distance of 10' +/-, thence S 83° 31'
55" E for a distance of 31.14' +/-, thence S 06° 28' 05" W for a distance of 10' +/-, thence N 83° 31' 55"
W for a distance of 31.19' +/- to the point of beginning. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, for and on behalf of the Town, to acquire by gift for cemetery purposes, to be under the care, custody and control of the Cemetery Commission, a parcel of land being shown as Open Space Parcel A on a plan entitled Fox Hill, Developed by Mirrione Realty Corp., 417 Purchase Street, Easton, MA, designed by Gallagher Engineering, 4 Windsor Drive, Foxboro, MA, dated 5-1-01, revised through 11-7-02, said property being a portion of the property shown on the Town of Easton assessor's map R8 at Lots 3 and 3A
Or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Cemetery Commission)

MOVED to authorize the Board of Selectmen, for and on behalf of the Town, to acquire by gift for cemetery purposes, to be under the care, custody and control of the Cemetery Commission, a parcel of land as described in the warrant. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section I of the Southeastern Regional School District Agreement as amended, to provide as follows:

Striking in its entirety, Section I: The Regional School District Committee, and inserting in place thereof the following:

SECTION I: THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. COMPOSITION

The Regional School District Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, shall consist of ten members two members shall be residents and registered voters of the City of Brockton, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of East Bridgewater, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Easton, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Foxborough, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Norton, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Mansfield, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Sharon, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of Stoughton, one member shall be a resident and registered voter of the Town of West Bridgewater. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen/City Council and the school committee, as the case may be, in each of the respective towns and city. For instance, the Sharon Board of Selectmen/City Council and the school committee will appoint the Sharon Committee member.

B. APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES:

Appointment to the District School Committees shall be done as follows'

- (1) No later than August 31st of each year in which an appointment is to be made, the selectmen or city council of a town or city whose seats are up for appointment during that year will post notice of such vacancy in the city or town hall. Notice of the vacancy shall remain posted for at least thirty (30) days.
- (2) Each individual interested in being appointed to the Committee shall submit a written statement of interest to the Board of Selectmen/City Council and school committee of the town or city in which he or she reside no later than October 1st during the year in which an appointment is scheduled to be made. The selectmen/city council and school committee will review the statements of interest, conduct interviews of the candidates if they desire, and make their appointment decisions no later than October 31st.

(3) Interested applicants must be residents and registered voters of the town or city in which they wish to be appointed in order to be considered for appointment to the Committee.

(4) Should a mid-term vacancy occur on the Committee, the town or city in which the vacancy occurs need not follow the appointment process set forth herein and may appoint through its board of selectmen or city council a resident and registered voter whom it decides in its discretion would be best suited to act as an interim committee member. Should a mid-term vacancy occur in the positions of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer, the Committee may immediately appoint by majority vote new individuals to fill the position(s) on an interim basis for the duration of the term of the departing officer without following the appointment procedure set forth in

Section C (3). In no case, shall any of the positions set forth herein remain vacant for more than thirty (30) days.

C. ORGANIZATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF OFFICE

(1) Initial Appointment --No later than August 31, 2004, each city and/or town represented by the five seats whose term is set to expire in November 2004 shall post a notice in the city and/or town hall notifying the public of the impending vacancy and inviting interested parties to submit a statement of interest to the respective Board of Selectmen/City Council and school committee no later than October 1, 2004. The Selectmen or City Council shall make their appointment as soon as practicable, but in no event later than October 31, 2004. New appointees will typically be sworn in at the first Committee meeting in November 2004 and shall serve a term of four (4) years in duration. The remaining five seats will follow the same appointment process, except such process shall take place in calendar year 2006. The present committee members for the five municipalities who were duly elected in the November 2002 election will continue to hold their seats until 2006.

(2) Subsequent Appointments --Each term shall be for four (4) years. Subsequent appointments shall be made in the same manner as initial appointments, with postings no later than August 31st, statements of interest provided no later than October 1st and appointment decisions made no later than October 31st. The individual appointed by the selectmen/city council and school committee shall begin to serve his or her term effective November 1st.

(3) Appointment of Officers --On the date of the first School Committee meeting following the November appointment and every November thereafter, the Committee shall choose by majority voice vote a Chairman for a term of one year from its own membership. At the same meeting, or at any other meeting, the Committee shall choose by majority vote a Treasurer and a Secretary, who may be the same person but who need not be a member of the Committee, choose such other officers as it deems advisable all to serve for a term of one year, and describe the powers and duties of any of its officers, fix the time and place for its regular meetings and provide for the calling of special meetings.

D. POWER AND DUTIES:

The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon it by this Agreement and such other additional powers and duties as are specified in Chapter 489 of the Acts of 1963, and any amendments thereof or additions thereto, now or hereafter enacted, or as may be specified in any other applicable general or special law.

E. QUORUM

The quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the Committee, but a number less than the majority may adjourn

Or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

MOVED to approve Article 17 as printed in the warrant. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton by inserting into the by-law adopted on May 20, 2002 under Article 25 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the Town entitled "Smoking Ban in Public Places in the Town of Easton" and inserting into the new G.L. Ch. 195 the following provision:

As a compromise to Article 25 and the G.L. Ch. 195 in favor of any restaurant, bar and/or lounge that may petition the Board of Health, in writing, for designating a separate area within that establishment as a distinct smoking room, petitioned-off from the rest of the establishment by a wall(s) and door(s) with a separate ventilation system adequate to discharge the smoke contained therein so that no migratory smoke will effect the main dining room area. In this compromise the Board of Health is delegated hereby the responsibility and authority to enforce and administer this amendment.

Or take any action relative thereto. (Submitted by Citizen Petition)

Petitioners MOVED to accept the Article as Written in the Warrant. The Petitioners were represented by Attorney Michael Malloy. Due to citation and language errors with this proposed by-law, a Motion was made to change G.L. Ch. 195 to read Ch. 195 of the Code of the Town of Easton wherever it appears and that "adopted on May 20, 2002 under Article 25 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the Town" be stricken, to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of Easton by inserting into the new Chapter 195 of the Code of the Town of Easton entitled "Smoking Ban in Public Places in Town of Easton" the following provisions:

As a compromise to Chapter 195 of the Code of the Town of Easton in favor of any restaurant, bar and/or lounge that may petition the Board of Health, in writing, for designating a separate area within that establishment as a distinct smoking room, petitioned-off from the rest of the establishment by a wall(s) and door(s) with a separate ventilation system adequate to discharge the smoke contained therein so that no migratory smoke will effect the main dining room area. In this compromise the Board of Health is delegated hereby the responsibility and authority to enforce and administer this amendment.

AMENDMENT PASSED 153 YES TO 151 NO.

*Main Motion as Amended – It was then MOVED to **Commit** this Article to the Board of Health. 158 YES, 153 NO – MOTION TO COMMIT CARRIES.*

At 12:13 A.M. it was VOTED to DISSOLVE the Special Town Meeting. Total Voters present – 2,014.

A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or by eminent domain the following parcel of land, with the building(s) thereon, for the purposes of open space preservation: A parcel shown on Assessor's Map R7 as Lot 7, being approximately 14 acres, being described in a deed recorded at the Northern Bristol Registry of Deeds in Book 1546, Page 1049, said property to be managed and owned by the Conservation Commission and, further, that the Conservation Commission and/or the Board of Selectmen be authorized to grant a perpetual open space preservation deed restriction to be held by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and/or a non-profit

organization qualified to hold such restrictions in accordance with section 12 of MGL c. 44B, and that the Town and the Conservation Commission be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effect said acquisition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money by borrowing for the purpose of acquiring by gift, purchase or eminent domain a parcel of land with the building(s) thereon for the purpose of open space preservation under the Community Preservation Program, said property being shown on Assessor's Map R7 as Lot 7 and containing approximately 14 acres and, to meet this appropriation, to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 7(3), Chapter 44B Section 11, or any other enabling authority, and issue bonds or notes therefore and, further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into any and all contracts in connection therewith and, further, that the Easton Conservation Commission be authorized to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the Self-Help Act (Chapter 132A, Section 11) or any other applications for funds in any way connected with the scope of this acquisition, and to enter into any contracts therefore, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee and Conservation Commission

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate monies from the Community Preservation Fund for costs associated with the acquisition of a parcel of land with the building(s) thereon, said parcel being shown on Assessor's Map R7 as Lot 7 and containing approximately 14 acres, said costs including but not limited to borrowing costs, legal costs, title examinations and appraisal, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

ARTICLE 22. *(See beginning of meeting for results.)*

ARTICLE 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 16th day of December in the year Two Thousand Two.

Jeffrey L. Tufts, Chairman
Patricia E. Webster
Gerard S. Marsan

Carla A. Goodwin, Clerk
Leo R. Harlow
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. December 27, 2002

By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk of Easton

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Easton
Annual Town Election
April 22, 2003

Bristol, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections to vote at:

Precincts 1, 2 & 4 – Easton Jr. High School Gymnasium, Columbus Avenue
Precincts 3 & 6 – Knights of Columbus Hall, 375 Foundry Street
Precinct 5 – Easton Baptist Church, 195 Bay Road

On TUESDAY, THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF APRIL, 2003, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

One Moderator for a term of three years;
Two Selectmen for terms of three years;
One Assessor for a term of three years;
One School Committee member for a term of three years;
One Board of Health member for a term of three years;
One Housing Authority member for a term of five years;
Three Finance Committee members for terms of three years;

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 13th day of March, 2003.

Jeffrey L. Tufts
Gerard S. Maran
Patricia E. Webster
Leo R. Harlow
SELECTMEN OF EASTON

Easton, Mass. March 18, 2003

By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk of Easton

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

APRIL 22, 2003

In accordance with the Warrant, the voters of the Town met at their respective polling places on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. The polls were opened at 8:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

The following named persons were duly sworn and performed the duties of election officers:

- Precinct One: J. Jacques Tremblay, Warden; Robert McLaughlin, Deputy Warden; Sandra Keach, Clerk; Albert Becker, Deputy Clerk; Joseph Quietto, Eleanor Bridge, Wilfred Roberge, Checkers.
- Precinct Two: Maureen Papineau, Warden; Dorothy Conceison, Deputy Warden; Jean Harney, Clerk; William MacMullen, Deputy Clerk; Irene Roberge, John Papineau, Virginia Corte, Virginia Sullivan, Checkers.
- Precinct Three: Arlene Keach, Warden; Evelyn Carlson, Deputy Warden; Rena Salkovitz, Clerk; Joseph Camara, Deputy Clerk; Beverly Hanson, E. Pamela Corbett, Rose Furlong, Checkers.
- Precinct Four: Elizabeth Porter, Warden; Lorraine Anderson, Deputy Warden; Constance Dumoulin, Clerk; Laetitia Tremblay, Deputy Clerk; Barbara Walsh, Ethel Gardner, Catharine Becker, Checkers.
- Precinct Five: Blanche Hicks, Acting Warden; Helena Luxton, Clerk; William McAndrews, Elizabeth Verity, John Sullivan, Bennie Moore, Louise Newman, Nicolina Previti, Checkers.
- Precinct Six: Mary Norrman, Warden; Harvey Blackman, Deputy Warden; Anne Marie Martin, Clerk; Marilyn Williams, Deputy Clerk; Estelle Blackman, Jean Fisher, Joan Hayward, Checkers.

Election Results:

14,031 Registered Voters						23 % Turnout	
Total Votes Cast:	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187
Final Election Results:	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
(Bold type = Elected to Office)							
MODERATOR (Three Years) (One)							
Richard C. Dailey	204	418	220	337	324	282	1785
Write-In Walter A Galas, Jr.	24	107	42	53	35	36	297
Blanks & Scattering	158	266	134	224	191	132	1105
Total	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187

SELECTMEN (Three Years) (Not more than Two)

Leo R. Harlow	214	406	195	327	222	204	1568
Patricia E. Webster	234	523	265	385	316	267	1990
John S. Haederle	211	400	207	314	343	277	1752
Blanks & Scattering	113	253	125	202	219	152	1064
Total	772	1582	792	1228	1100	900	6374

ASSESSOR (Three Years) (One)

Shaun Fitzgerald	245	546	260	389	350	302	2092
Blanks & Scattering	141	245	136	225	200	148	1095
Total	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Three Years) (One)

Ellen Barlow Boyajian	232	509	255	373	349	286	2004
Blanks & Scattering	154	282	141	241	201	164	1183
Total	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187

BOARD OF HEALTH (Three Years) (One)

William Grimes	144	334	185	258	190	161	1272
Roger M. Kligler	230	411	200	334	336	276	1787
Blanks & Scattering	12	46	11	22	24	13	128
Total	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187

HOUSING AUTHORITY (Five Years) (One)

Michael J. Malloy	166	371	190	285	231	209	1452
Helen L. Cokeroff	113	238	122	174	151	147	945
Blanks & Scattering	107	182	84	155	168	94	790
Total	386	791	396	614	550	450	3187

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Three Years) (Not More than Three)

Mark S. Carpentier	207	455	209	325	332	255	1783
Irwin M. Cohen	211	427	194	329	321	245	1727
Mark A. Tuniewicz	175	378	198	269	275	207	1502
Scott D. Simard	169	349	195	292	206	210	1421
Write-Ins - John J. Rizzo	20	68	33	37	21	19	198
Write-Ins - Robert P. Mielde, Jr.	17	58	34	27	19	22	177
Blanks & Scattering	359	638	325	563	476	392	2753
Total	1158	2373	1188	1842	1650	1350	9561

A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 19, 2003

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in said Easton on Monday, the 19th day of May, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Be it known that the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2003 was duly adjourned to:

Monday, June 9, 2003 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M.

In the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium to see what action the town will take in respect to:

ARTICLES 1-23, inclusive

And any and all matters that may legally come before the meeting.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, June 9, 2003

The Adjourned Annual Town Meeting was called to order in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium at 7:15 p.m. by Moderator Richard C. Dailey with quorum present.

Fire exits were pointed out and voters reminded to go to the nearest exit in case of an emergency.

Heidi Churchill, outgoing President of State Finance Committees presented John Kent with an honorary award.

The following non-registered department heads and others were voted admittance to the hall:

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Martha L. White, Interim Town Administrator; Janet Andrus Linehan, Town Clerk; Wendy V. Nightingale, Town Accountant; John L. Nunes, Treasurer/Collector; William Simmons, School Superintendent; Wade Saucier, Health Director; Marc Rousseau,

Planner, Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager; D. Mark Trivett, Building Inspector; John J. Marsh, Water Superintendent; OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES: Michael Green, Assistant to Superintendent; Marilyn Gordon, School Business Manager; Robert Smith, School Principal; Gary Mazzola, School Principal; Annalee Bundy, Library Director; Eric Davis, Data Processing; OTHERS: Ellen Callahan Doucette, Brackett & Lucas, Town Counsel; Richard Lombardi, Business Manager Southeastern Regional School; MEDIA: Media One: Robyn Sousa; Enterprise: Vicki Downing; REPRESENTATIVES: State Senators Robert Creedon and Brian Joyce; State Representatives Geraldine Creedon, David Flynn, Christine Canavan; Congressman Stephen Lynch; MICROPHONE CARRIERS: None; Anthony & Eleanor Calisi re Zoning, Article 9; Moshen Parvin re 15 Barberry Lane.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Moved that the Town vote to accept the reports of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 44, section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004, known as the "Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account", which shall be accounted for separately from all other monies of the Town, and to which shall be deposited departmental fees and receipts, to pay for the reasonable costs and expenses, for supplies and services as deemed necessary by the Commission to aid it in making its decisions on such applications, or in enforcement cases where such applications should have been legally filed, or for other such enforcement actions, and for the administrative costs related thereto, with said departmental fees and receipts to be expended without appropriation, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund shall be expended only for the purpose of paying for supplies and services, and the administrative costs related thereto, as deemed necessary by the Commission to aid it in making its decisions on such conservation applications, or on necessary enforcement actions;
2. Only fees and receipts received from applicants for Conservation Permits, or Application for "Requests for Determination," shall be deposited in such account;
3. The Conservation Commission shall be the only Town body authorized to expend such fund, and
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2004 "Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account", shall not exceed \$30,000. (Submitted by Conservation Commission)

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Conservation Commission, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 44, section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004, known as the "Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account" as printed in your warrant. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Planning & Zoning Board, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. 44, Section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004 known as the "Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees Account", which shall be accounted for separately from all other moneys of the Town, and to which are to be deposited fees received in connection with subdivision approval for application review and inspections during construction, to pay for the reasonable costs and

expenses of the Board for expert engineering and consultant services and administrative costs related thereto, as deemed necessary by the Board with said fees to be expended without further appropriation, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund shall be expended only for the purpose of paying for the services of expert engineers and consultants, and related administrative cost, deemed necessary by the Board to pay for the reasonable costs and expenses of application review and inspections during construction; and any other related expenses of the Planning and Zoning Board.
2. Only fees received from applicants in connection with subdivision approval for application review and inspections during construction shall be deposited in such account.
3. The Planning & Zoning Board shall be the only Town body authorized to expend such fund, and;
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2004 "Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees," shall not exceed \$70,000. (Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board)

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Planning & Zoning Board, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. 44, Section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004 known as the "Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees Account" as printed in your warrant. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, section 53E 1/2, to authorize the Board of Health to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004, which shall be accounted for separately from all other monies for the Town, to which shall be credited only departmental fees from holders of any food permits to be known as "Food Inspection Services/Education Account", and funds from said account may be paid out to any qualified Food Inspector for Food Service Inspections and/or for educational seminars for food handlers and administrative costs related thereto without further appropriation, and which said authorization to be made upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund may be expended for the purpose of paying any qualified Food Inspector for performing inspections, for the purpose of paying for educational seminars for food handlers, and for administrative costs related thereto;
2. Only fees received from properly permitted food establishments shall be deposited in said account;
3. The Board of Health shall be the only body authorized to expend such fund, and
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2004, "Food Inspection Services/Education Account" shall not exceed \$24,000. (Submitted by the Board of Health)

Moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44, section 53E 1/2, to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004 known as the "Food Inspection Services/Education Account" as printed in your warrant. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, section 53E 1/2, to authorize the Board of Health to set up a revolving fund for Fiscal 2004, which shall be accounted for separately from all other monies for the Town, to which shall be credited only departmental fees for witnessing observation holes, percolation tests and other related duties for approval of on-site septic system designs and installations within the Town of Easton to be known as "On-Site Septic Service

Account", and funds from said account may be paid out for administrative costs and to any qualified professional, approved by the Commonwealth without further appropriation, and which said authorization to be made upon the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, and to specify as follows:

1. The revolving fund may be expended for the purpose of paying for administrative costs and for services related to witnessing observation holes, percolation tests and other related duties for approval of on-site septic system designs and installations approved by the Board of Health;
2. Only fees received for work related to septic system design, approval and/or soil exploration shall be deposited in said account;
3. The Board of Health shall be the only body authorized to expend such fund, and
4. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2004 "On-Site Septic Service Account," shall not exceed the total fees and receipts received by the Board of Health, from Board of Health service fees during Fiscal 2004.
5. The amounts expended from Fiscal 2004 "On-Site Septic Service Account," shall not exceed \$60,000.00. (Submitted by the Board of Health)

Moved that Article 5 be dismissed. VOTED TO DISMISS.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement existing budgets for the Fiscal Year 2003 budget, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from overlay surplus the sum of \$20,000 to supplement existing budgets for the Fiscal Year 2003 budget, as follows: TOWN COUNSEL \$20,000.

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Moved to dismiss Article 7. DISMISSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$20,000 to complete a facility assessment of the H.H. Richardson & F.L. Olmsted schools to create a short and long term maintenance plan, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Municipal Building Committee)

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 of which \$6,778.12 shall be transferred from account 01-303-15-6028, voted pursuant to Article 13 of the November 9, 1998 Special Town Meeting, \$6,301.80 shall be transferred from account 01-303-15-6008, voted pursuant to Article 13 of the April 11, 1994 Annual Town Meeting and \$6,920.08 shall be transferred from account 01-303-15-6013 voted pursuant to Article 26 of the April 8, 1996 Annual Town Meeting to complete a facility assessment of the H.H. Richardson & F.L. Olmsted schools to create a short and long term maintenance plan. VOTED.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Easton, Massachusetts Zoning Map, dated January 13, 2003 (original date March 7, 1973) by changing the zoning for all or part of certain parcels of land now owned by Anthony Calisi, Eleanor Calisi, Mohsen Parvin, John J. Zarba and Sue L. Zarba within the subdivision known as Chestnut Farms, from Industrial to Residential and further described as follows:

- Lot 2 / 8 Barberry Lane (Assessor Map R9; Lot 106)
- Lot 3 / 15 Barberry Lane (Assessor Map R10; Lot 201)
- Lot 4 / 14 Lilac Lane (Assessor Map R10; Lot 202)

and to accept the report of the Planning & Zoning Board in relation to this article, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Citizen Petition)

*Moved that the Town vote to amend the Town of Easton, Massachusetts Zoning Map, dated January 13, 2003 (original date March 7, 1973) by changing the zoning for all or part of certain parcels of land as printed in your warrant. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, to amend the Town of Easton Zoning Map, dated January 13, 2003, (original date: March 7, 1973) and rezone the following properties, owned by the Town of Easton, as follows:

From Residential to Municipal and Open Space.

<u>Map/Lot</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lot Size</u>
R08-276	290 Bay Road	14.16 ac
R15-029	386 Foundry Street	4.6 ac
R18-000	Off Foundry Street	7.408 ac
R06-086	27R Acorn Road	16.49 ac
R06-087	15R Oak Leaf Lane	11.09 ac
U51-125	32R Cinnamon Circle	.52 ac
U51-126	10R Cinnamon Circle	4.84 ac
U51-127	14 Nutmeg Lane	3.49 ac
R16-027	272 Foundry Street	10.64 ac
R07-000	Off Massapoag Ave.	48.384 ac
R03-037	52R Allen Road	12.7 ac
R18-000	Foundry Street	.05 ac

From Residential and Industrial to Municipal and Open Space:

R07-160	70 Chestnut Street	16.666 ac
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From Industrial to Municipal and Open Space:

R10-002B	55R Foundry Street	1.75 ac
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From Business to Municipal and Open Space:

U51-123	329 Turnpike Street	1.4 ac
U51-124	15 Cinnamon Circle	.35 ac

and to accept the report of the Planning & Zoning Board in relation to this article, or take any relative action thereto. (Submitted by Conservation Commission)

*Moved that the Town vote, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, to amend the Town of Easton Zoning Map, dated January 13, 2003, (original date: March 7, 1973) and rezone certain properties owned by the Town of Easton as printed in your warrant. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to reserve for later appropriation a sum of money from Community Preservation Fund balance for the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Community Preservation Committee)

Moved that the Town vote to reserve from community preservation fund balance the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the undertaking of community preservation projects, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>
<i>Reserves</i>	
Open Space	\$ 45,110.00
Historic Resources	45,110.00
Community Housing	45,110.00

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2004 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Community Preservation Committee)

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate or reserve from community preservation fund annual revenues and available funds the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2004, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2004 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

The Community Preservation Committee recommends that the following amounts be appropriated or reserved from fiscal year 2004 Community Preservation Fund revenues, unless otherwise specified, for Fiscal Year 2004 Community Preservation Purposes with each item considered a separate appropriation:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>
<u>Appropriations (from FY 2004 Annual Fund Revenues unless otherwise specified)</u>	
Community Preservation Administrative Expenses	\$ 25,000.00
Matching Funds for Olmsted Memorial Cairn Restoration with \$55,970.00 from FY 2004 Annual Fund Revenues and with \$44,030.00 from Community Preservation Fund Historic Resources Reserves and subject to the receipt of a 100% matching grant from the Massachusetts Historic Commission.	\$100,000.00
<u>Reserves (from FY 2004 Annual Fund Revenues unless otherwise specified)</u>	
Open Space	\$ 55,970.00
Community Housing	\$ 55,970.00
FY'04 Annual Budgeted Reserve	\$366,790.00

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, Division 2, By-Laws, Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 193, Sales, Yard in the following respects:

Item 1 By deleting the following language in §193-3:

B. The Selectmen, upon request, may waive the requirement that all material to be sold originate from the property on which the sale is to take place provided that the sale is under the sponsorship of an Easton-based nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide service or charitable work.

and inserting in place thereof the following language:

B. The Building Inspector, upon request may waive the requirement that all material to be sold originate from the property on which the sale is to take place provided that the sale is under the sponsorship of an Easton-based nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide service or charitable work.

Item 2 By deleting in its entirety §193-5 Fees. (A) and (B) and inserting in place thereof the following language:

§193-5 Fees

- A. The fees for permits granted pursuant to these rules and regulations shall be established by the Building Inspector.
- B. The Building Inspector may waive the fee requirement for any Easton-based nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide service or charitable work.

Item 3 By deleting the following language in §193-6:

- E. Whoever violates any provisions of these rules and regulation shall be subject to a fine for each offense not exceeding \$25.

and inserting in place thereof the following language:

- E. Whoever violates any provisions of these rules and regulation shall be subject to a fine for each offense not exceeding \$100.

Or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

*Moved that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, Division 2, By-Laws, Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 193, Sales, Yard as printed in your warrant. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows:

Selectmen	\$1,800.00
Board of Health	\$1,000.00
Board of Assessors	\$1,800.00
Moderator	\$ 100.00

Or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Moved that the Town vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows:

Selectmen	\$1,800.00
Board of Health	\$1,000.00
Board of Assessors	\$1,800.00
Moderator	\$ 100.00

VOTED.

(A motion to amend the amounts for Selectmen, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, Moderator to \$0 was Not a Vote. Deputy Moderator John Creedon presided over the meeting on this Article in place of Moderator Dailey. A motion to RECONSIDER Article 14 was NOT A VOTE.)

(There was a motion to advance Articles 16-20 before Article 15 - Not a 4/5 vote. Motion did not pass.)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer, such sums as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year including the salaries of the several elected and appointed officers of the Town, and make appropriations for same, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Town Administrator)
(See Budget to be distributed at Town Meeting).

Amended. Moved to appropriate the sum of \$44,929,782 of which \$40,895,065 shall be raised by taxation, \$471,522 shall be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, \$130,181 shall be transferred from the Pension Reserve Fund, \$120,884 shall be transferred from the Conservation Fund, \$70,000 shall be transferred from the Planning and Zoning Board Subdivision Review and Inspection Fees Account, \$30,000 shall be transferred from the Conservation Chapter 227 Filing Fee Account, \$456,447 shall be transferred from offset receipts, and \$2,755,683 shall be transferred from water receipts, all to meet the Town charges, including salaries and expenses for the fiscal year 2004, as follows:

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	TOTAL
01-003	SELECTMEN	240,360
01-007	TOWN COUNSEL	178,000
01-011	FINANCE COMMITTEE	3,500
01-013	RESERVE FUND	25,000
01-025	ACCOUNTANT	153,268
01-029	ASSESSORS	182,409
01-033	TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER	279,306
01-039	TOWN CLERK	211,628
01-051	DATA PROCESSING	211,211
01-101	POLICE	2,935,571
01-103	FIRE	2,150,412
01-104	AMBULANCE	309,595
01-105	FIRE ALARM	26,200
01-110	LAND USE & PERMITTING	474,496
01-225	SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL	549,476
01-300	DPW ADMINISTRATION	1,935,361
01-501	BOARD OF HEALTH	185,748
01-531	COUNCIL ON AGING	188,356
01-551	VETERANS DEPARTMENT	142,994
01-600	RECREATION DEPARTMENT	98,331
01-625	LIBRARY	376,204
01-700	MATURING DEBT & INTEREST	3,033,528
01-750	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	6,579,574
01-760	OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	99,175

61-500	WATER DIVISION	2,207,197
	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	<u>22,152,882</u>
	TOTAL FY 2004 BUDGET	<u>44,929,782</u>

(Increased the Fire Department budget line by \$21,522 to \$2,150,412.)

UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town for Fiscal Year 2004, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Capital Planning Committee/Town Administrator)

(See Budget to be distributed at Town Meeting)

Moved to appropriate the sum of \$1,391,000, and that to meet this appropriation, \$106,478.09 will be transferred from overlay surplus, \$62,521.91 will be transferred from the Sale of Real Estate account, \$102,000 will be transferred from Water Surplus and the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$1,120,000 under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out these projects for the purposes listed below:

Easton Jr. High School Boiler Replacement	\$40,000
Police – 4 Marked Cruisers	140,000
Fire – Recondition Engine #1	60,000
Fire – Pumper Truck	350,000
Fire – Ambulance	130,000
DPW – Bobcat Loader	20,000
DPW – Dump Truck w/ Sander/Plow	49,000
DPW – Road/Sidewalk Repairs	500,000
Water – Baldwin St Water Main	60,000
Water – Replace Truck #20	20,000
Water – Replace Van #25	<u>22,000</u>
Total:	<u>\$1,391,000</u>

YES 108, NO 42. VOTE CARRIES.

The quorum was questioned after this vote was taken. As it was determined by the Moderator that a quorum was not in fact present, it was VOTED at 11:15 p.m. to ADJOURN to 7 PM on Monday, June 16, 2003 in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium. Total Voters Present – 338.

A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Be it known that the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2003 was duly adjourned to Monday, June 9, 2003 and further adjourned to:

MONDAY, JUNE 16TH AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M.

In the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium to see what action the town will take in respect to:

ARTICLES 17-23, inclusive

And any all matters that may legally come before the meeting.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

**ADJOURNED ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Monday, June 16, 2003**

The Adjourned Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Richard C. Dailey, in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium at 7:48 p.m. with quorum present. Timothy Webster, student, was voted admittance to the hall.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will enact a temporary tax amnesty program during 2003, in accordance with Chapter 4 section 73 of the Acts of 2003, or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Town Collector)

Moved that the town vote to enact the following tax amnesty program, in accordance with Chapter 4 Section 73 of the Acts of 2003, in order to encourage the payment of certain delinquent tax obligations.

Section 1. Amnesty period: *The amnesty program shall begin on July 1, 2003 and end on November 30, 2003.*

Section 2. Program Scope: *A taxpayer who meets all eligibility requirements set forth in Section 3 shall receive a waiver of 50% of the total accrued interest, and the \$5.00 demand owed on the following types of tax liabilities upon full payment of the outstanding liability (and all interest, collections costs and penalties not waived) by the end of the amnesty period:*

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX FROM YEAR 1986 TO 2000

Section 3. Eligibility Requirements. *To obtain a waiver as set forth in Section 2, the taxpayer must meet all of the following requirements:*

- 1. Payment must be made by cash, money order, or certified check only. No Personal Checks will be accepted.*
- 2. All motor vehicle taxes that are outstanding (after 2000) must be paid up in order to qualify for this program.*
- 3. No Payment plans will be accepted. All outstanding bills, unwaived interest, and collections fees must be paid in full at the time of payment. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.***

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, SHANNONMARIE WAY, as a public way pursuant to MGL Chapter 82 from Station 0 + 00 to Station 4

+ 16.67 as shown on a plan entitled "As-Built and Acceptance Plan ShannonMarie Way Easton, MA, " surveyed by Ribelin Land Surveyors, Inc., 301 West Center Street, West Bridgewater, MA, dated March 14, 2003, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, section 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, and further to accept deeds for an Observation Well Easement and a Drainage Easement, both as shown on said plan, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Citizen Petition)

Moved to accept the following named street or way, SHANNONMARIE WAY, as a public way pursuant to MGL Chapter 82 from Station 0 + 00 to Station 4 + 16.67 as shown on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision of ShannonMarie Way in Easton, MA," surveyed by Ribelin Land Surveyors, Inc., 700 West Center Street, West Bridgewater, MA, dated September 3, 1991, and recorded in the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 327, Page 49,, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, section 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, and further to accept deeds for an Observation Well Easement and a Drainage Easement, both as shown on said plan. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of paying the difference between the salary received by Town employees and the salary these same employees will receive while on duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, during the period of time they are activated for service, and any related military service during or thereafter, or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Citizen Petition)

Moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from overlay surplus the sum of \$38,235 for the purpose of paying the difference between the salary received by Town employees and the salary these same employees will receive while on duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, during the period of time they are activated for service, and any related military service during or thereafter. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Ch 184 §51 of the Acts of 2002 amending M.G.L. Ch 59 §5(41C), relative to Clause 41C Elderly Exemption and including the following options:

1. To lower the age eligibility from 70 to 65.
2. To increase the exemption granted to eligible applicants by 100% to \$1,000 (or \$8,000 in valuation if greater) instead of the current \$500 (or \$4,000 in valuation if greater).
3. To increase the gross receipts limit that applies to the applicant to \$20,000 if single and \$30,000 if married. (The current limit is \$13,000 for a single applicant and \$15,000 for married applicants.) A co-owner who is not the applicant's spouse may not exceed the current gross receipts limit of \$13,000 if single and \$15,000 if married.
4. To increase the whole estate limit that applies to the applicant to \$40,000 if single and \$55,000 if married. (The current limit is \$28,000 if the applicant is single and \$30,000 if married.) A co-owner who is not the applicant's spouse may not exceed the current whole estate limit of \$28,000 if single and \$30,000 if married.

Or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Director of Council on Aging)

Moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of MGL Ch 184 §51 of the Acts of 2002 amending M.G.L. Ch 59 §5(41C), relative to Clause 41C Elderly Exemption and including the following options:

1. To increase the gross receipts limit that applies to the applicant to \$18,000 if single and \$25,000 if married. A co-owner who is not the applicant's spouse may not exceed the current gross receipts limit of \$13,000 if single and \$15,000 if married.
2. To increase the whole estate limit that applies to the applicant to \$35,000 if single and \$45,000 if married. A co-owner who is not the applicant's spouse may not exceed the current whole estate limit of \$28,000 if single and \$30,000 if married. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

There was a motion to advance Article 22 before Article 21. **UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to amend the first paragraph of subsection C of Section 59-16 (Personnel : Merit Raises) of the Town's Personnel Bylaws, replacing it with a new first paragraph as follows:

"C. Merit pay increases and bonuses.

1. Merit pay changes shall be either permanent pay increases or one-time bonus payments, and shall be based upon documented annual performance in an employee's personnel file. "Merit pay change" is defined as including either pay increases or bonus payments or both said terms.
2. Permanent merit pay increases are not automatic but required the attainment of an extraordinary score on said performance review. Such increases shall be limited to a maximum of a one (1) step advancement regardless of said score, and may be for lesser amounts. One-time bonus payments are not automatic but require the attainment of an outstanding score on said performance review. The Board of Selectmen shall annually determine the definition of "extraordinary score" and "outstanding score."
2. Employees shall not receive both a merit pay increase and a merit bonus in the same fiscal year. Employees shall not receive both a merit pay change and a monetary employee incentive award for the same act or suggestion.
3. The implementation date for merit pay changes shall be July 1, the first day of each fiscal year, provided that the employee has been employed for at least twelve full months prior to that date.
4. Merit pay changes are subject to funding. The amount available for all such merit pay changes shall be subject to Town Meeting approval in a separate warrant article as a transfer account or pool.
5. An employee who has reached the highest step for a particular salary range may not receive further merit pay changes unless their position is re-graded. An employee on unpaid leave shall not count such leave toward service for compensation payments.
7. Merit pay changes shall not be funded during Fiscal Year 2004. (Submitted by Citizen Petition)

Moved to amend the first paragraph of subsection C of Section 59-16 (Personnel : Merit Raises) of the Town's Personnel Bylaws, replacing it with a new first paragraph as printed in the Warrant.

During discussion of the Article, there was a motion to Amend the numbering of the points in the article to sequential numbering (1-7). **AMENDED.**

A motion to delete 1-6 was made. It was stated that this would in effect amend the budget that was voted last week. Moderator Dailey ruled this statement correct and that the amendment is appropriate, but what's left may be a "non-starter." A motion was then made to move the question of the amendment. **The Amendment was NOT A VOTE.**

Another motion was made, to COMMIT this article to the Selectmen to bring back to a fall Special Town Meeting. During lengthy discussion of the motion to commit, there was a motion to close debate. The motion to close debate passed on a standing vote by more than 50 in favor, 25 opposed. On the motion to commit, the following counters were appointed and duly sworn: Lennart Altieri, Michael Boyle, John Keach, John Kent, Denise Higgins, Jonathan Richman. The vote was 79 in favor, 104 opposed. Motion to COMMIT did not carry.

The quorum was then questioned. The counters counted 196 voters.

At 8:55 p.m. a motion to DISSOLVE the Annual Town Meeting was NOT A VOTE. A motion to ADJOURN to Monday, June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium was NOT A VOTE.

A motion to continue this article to the next Special Town Meeting was not allowed, as it is an illegal motion. A specific date, time and place must be given.

Another motion to DISSOLVE was made. During this discussion, another motion was made to reconvene at 9 p.m. this evening to allow voters to make calls to get a quorum. Moderator Dailey, after conferring with Town Counsel Ellen Callahan Doucette, stated that, assuming the motion to dissolve would be defeated, he could not entertain a motion to reconvene without posting a notice. He suggested that a motion be given to recess for one half hour. Anyone who came in the interim would be counted in. The voter who made the motion to reconvene stated they would make the motion to recess at the proper time.

It was questioned what happens to the remaining articles if the meeting is dissolved or reconvened. Moderator Dailey explained that Article 21 which remains after Article 22, which was to have been dismissed by the Board of Selectmen, as it is their article, which leaves only Article 22 for consideration. If the meeting is dissolved, it's over and done with and they call another town meeting some other time. Selectwoman Goodwin stated that if the meeting is dissolved, the Board of Selectmen with the two subcommittees are going to work next week and will bring back changes to the by-law. The motion to DISSOLVE was NOT A VOTE.

At 9:03 p.m. a motion to RECESS for 30 minutes was VOTED.

The meeting was re-called to order by Moderator Dailey at 9:33 p.m. The Moderator declared that there was not a quorum.

Another motion to ADJOURN to Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium was made. After further discussion, the motion to adjourn was NOT A VOTE. The vote was questioned and the counters counted 73 in favor, 76 opposed. Motion to Adjourn FAILED.

A final motion to DISSOLVE the Annual Town Meeting was made and VOTED AT 9:50 p.m. Total voters present – 256.

A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/MMC, Town Clerk

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Easton, Division 2, By-Laws, Part I, Administrative Legislation, Chapter 59, Personnel in the following respects:

Item 1 By deleting the following language in §59-16:

B. The pay plan shall be annually increased by an inflationary factor, to be determined by the Town Administrator as part of the annual budget cycle.

and inserting in place thereof the following language:

B. The pay plan shall be annually increased by an inflationary factor, to be determined by averaging the inflationary increase awarded general government union employees for the subject fiscal year.

- Item 2 By deleting in its entirety §59-16. C. Merit Increases, and replacing it with the following:
C. Step increases. Employees will move towards their maximum step on the approved Pay Plan at the rate of one step per year, effective each July 1, until the maximum step is reached. Employees must have been in a position governed by this Chapter for a minimum of three (3) months to be eligible for a step increase.
- Item 3 By deleting in its entirety §59-16. D. Performance Evaluation.
- Item 4 By re-lettering subsequent paragraphs E. F. and G., within §59-16, accordingly as paragraphs D., E. and F.
- Item 5 By deleting in its entirety ARTICLE VIII Performance Evaluation.
- Item 6 By re-numbering subsequent ARTICLES IX, X AND XI, accordingly as ARTICLES VIII, IX AND X.
- Item 7 By amending §59-9 Definitions, by deleting MERIT INCREASE and the definition therefore. Or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 5th day of May the year Two Thousand and Three.

Gerard S. Marsan, Chairman
Jeffrey L. Tufts
Patricia E. Webster
Carla A. Goodwin
John S. Haederle
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. May 9, 2003

By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/MMMC, Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2003

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in said Easton on Monday, the 17th day of November, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

*SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003*

At 7:30 p.m. a total of 160 voters had checked in. It was determined to wait 15 minutes. At 7:45 p.m., there still being no quorum present, it was moved to adjourn to February 2, 2004. This was amended to Monday, January 12, 2004 in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. VOTED.. It was noted that Moderator Richard C. Dailey would not be available for the meeting on January 12. Total voters present - 177.

A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Be it known that the Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2003 was duly adjourned to:

MONDAY, January 12, 2004, AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M.

In the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium to see what action the town will take in respect to:

ARTICLES 1-23, inclusive

And any all matters that may legally come before the meeting.

Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

ARTICLE 1. REAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote under Article 15 of the May 19, 2003 (adjourned to June 9, 2003) Annual Town Meeting specifically to reduce the appropriation made to the Southeastern Regional School by the amount of \$138,551 and further to increase the appropriation to the School Department by the amount of \$138,551, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

- Item 2 By deleting in its entirety §59-16. C. Merit Increases, and replacing it with the following:
C. Step increases. Employees will move towards their maximum step on the approved Pay Plan at the rate of one step per year, effective each July 1, until the maximum step is reached. Employees must have been in a position governed by this Chapter for a minimum of three (3) months to be eligible for a step increase.
- Item 3 By deleting in its entirety §59-16. D. Performance Evaluation.
- Item 4 By re-lettering subsequent paragraphs E. F. and G., within §59-16, accordingly as paragraphs D. E. and F.
- Item 5 By deleting in its entirety ARTICLE VIII Performance Evaluation.
- Item 6 By re-numbering subsequent ARTICLES IX, X AND XI, accordingly as ARTICLES VIII, IX AND X.
- Item 7 By amending §59-9 Definitions, by deleting MERIT INCREASE and the definition therefore. Or to take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 5th day of May the year Two Thousand and Three.

Gerard S. Marsan, Chairman
Jeffrey L. Tufts
Patricia E. Webster
Carla A. Goodwin
John S. Haederle
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. May 9, 2003
By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day
posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC, Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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A true record. Attest: Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/MMC, Town Clerk

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Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/MMC, Town Clerk

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Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 16. STREET ACCEPTANCE - LILAC LANE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, Lilac Lane, as a public way, pursuant to MGL Chapter 82, from station 0+00 to station 6+14.18 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Chestnut Farms" drafted by Ribelin Land Surveys, Inc., dated February 6, 1998 as approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on January 13, 1999 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 387, Page 3 & 4; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a conservation easement across Lots 2 & 3, containing 46,607 square feet, a drainage easement across Lots 2 & 3 containing 32,664 square feet, a 20 foot wide utility easement across Lots 3 & 4 and a slope easement situated south of Chestnut Street and west of Lilac Lane containing 9,227 square feet, all as shown on the "Chestnut Farms" Definitive Subdivision Plan and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 17. STREET ACCEPTANCE – BARBERRY LANE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the following named street or way, Barberry Lane, as a public way, pursuant to MGL Chapter 82, from station 0+00 to station 1+92.96 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Chestnut Farms" drafted by Ribelin Land Surveys, Inc., dated February 6, 1998 as approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on January 13, 1999 and recorded with the Bristol County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 387, Page 3 & 4; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept an easement deed, pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, for a conservation easement across Lots 2 & 3, containing 46,607 square feet, a drainage easement across Lots 2 & 3 containing 32,664 square feet, a 20 foot wide utility easement across Lots 3 & 4 and a slope easement situated south of Chestnut Street and west of Lilac Lane containing 9,227 square feet, all as shown on "Chestnut Farms" Definitive Subdivision Plan and, further to authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 3 and 14, to accept the deed of a fee interest in said way, or take any other action thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 18. AMENDMENT TO TOWN CODE RE: FILLING VACANCIES ON FINANCE COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 22 of the Code of the Town of Easton (Finance Committee), specifically by deleting section 22-2 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

§ 22-2 The said Committee shall fill any vacancy which may occur in its membership in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, § 11, as it may hereafter be amended.

Submitted by Finance Committee

ARTICLE 19. AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONNEL BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-Laws, **Chapter 59, Personnel**, as follows:

1. **ArticleII, Administration** by inserting a new section 59-7, and renumbering all subsequent sections accordingly, said section 59-7 shall be entitled **Human Resource Board** and shall read as follows:

§ 59-7. Human Resource Board.

I. Composition of Board

- A. The Town shall have a Human Resources Board (hereinafter "HRB") consisting of five residents appointed by the Moderator.
- B. No member shall be a member of another board or committee or an officer, official or paid employee of the Town.
- C. At least two members shall have education and/or experience in human resources or labor relations.

- D. The term of office shall be three years, so arranged such that the term of at least one member shall expire each year. The initial membership term shall commence on or before January 1, 2004.
- E. Any vacancy in the HRB shall be filled by the Moderator, and any person appointed to fill vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the person whom s/he succeeds.
- F. The HRB shall annually elect its own Chair and Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair.
- G. The HRB shall serve without compensation.
- H. The HRB shall hold meetings at least once a month or at such times as it may determine.

II. Duties

- A. The HRB shall cause to be created a Classification Plan and Salary Plan. They shall prepare a draft request for proposals from consultants with input and advice from the Personnel Director, assist in the review of proposals, make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding contracting with a consultant to create these plans, and shall approve of the methodology used by the consultant in the creation of the plans. They shall submit their recommendations for proposals to the Town Administrator or the Town procurement officer. In the alternative, if a consultant is not hired, the HRB shall create the Classification and Salary Plans.
- B. The Classification Plan and Salary Plan created shall set the salary levels and grade ranges of Town municipal employees at the 75th percentile, as compared to the market. Employees paid outside of the ranges for their positions shall be brought into the range. The HRB shall assist the Personnel Director in developing a transition process to accomplish this. Current employees' salaries shall not be reduced as a result of this process.
- C. The HRB shall make recommendations to the Personnel Director as to the implementation and administration of the Classification and Salary Plans (see items III and IV below), and shall recommend policies and procedures consistent with those Plans, as it deems necessary for the administration thereof.
- D. The HRB shall have access to the payroll/salary records of all Town employees maintained by the Town.
- E. The HRB shall from time to time review the Salary Schedules of the Town employees. It shall keep informed as to pay rates and policies outside the service of the Town and shall make recommendations to the Personnel Director necessary to maintain a fair and equitable pay level.
- F. As frequently as deemed necessary or desirable by the HRB, but not less frequently than every 5 years, the HRB shall direct, assist with and/or conduct salary surveys regarding collection and analysis of data for comparison between Town employees and comparable employees outside the service of the Town. Based on such surveys, the HRB shall recommend changes or adjustments to the Classification and Salary Plans to the Personnel Director.
- G. The HRB may recommend to the Personnel Director an entrance rate higher than the minimum rate for a position, and such other variances in the Salary Plan as it may deem necessary for the proper functioning of the services of the Town, upon recommendation of a Department Head, supported by evidence in writing of special reasons and exceptional circumstances satisfactory to the HRB.
- H. To the extent possible, the HRB shall assist the Personnel Director in advising all boards, officers and officials regarding compliance with applicable fair employment practice.
- I. The HRB shall present to the Board of Selectmen, on an annual basis, a report of the salary plan containing a summary of the plan, salary ranges and any adjustments to ranges made that year, summary of any wage survey done, summary of performance based increases given, recommendation of guidelines to be used for the pay plan for the next laws and other applicable state and federal laws and regulations, fiscal year, discussion of any off cycle adjustments recommended and reasons for adjustment. The report shall include an analysis of the Salary Plan for the year including: percentage impact of raises on the budget, average percentage of increases, and distribution of employees falling

within various performance levels.

- J. The HRB shall undertake a review of all municipal collective bargaining agreements not subject to the authority of the Easton School Department and provide an analysis to the Board of Selectmen of the comparability of the agreements with Town employees and comparable employees outside the service of the Town.
- K. Nothing in this article, or the Salary Plan, shall be construed to conflict with Chapter 31 of the General Laws or Easton's Home Rule Charter.

III. Classification Plan

- A. A Classification plan is to be created by the HRB.
- B. The positions of all officers and employees of the Town (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal, casual, special, Civil Service, or others) other than those positions filled by popular election and those under the direction and control of the School Committee, shall be classified by titles and groups listed in the Classification Plan.
- C. The HRB shall maintain written descriptions of the jobs or positions in the Classification Plan, describing the essential characteristics, requirements and general duties of the jobs. The descriptions shall not be interpreted as complete or limiting definitions of any job and employees shall continue in the future, as in the past, to perform any duties assigned by department heads, supervisors, or other authority.
- D. The HRB, from time to time, shall review the duties of all positions subject to the Classification Plan. Such reviews shall be made at such intervals, as the HRB deems necessary and, to the extent which the HRB considers practicable, shall include all occupational groups.
- E. The HRB may recommend to the Personnel Director a new position to the Classification Plan or reclassification an existing position.
- F. The HRB shall transmit the Classification Plan to the Town Administrator who shall then submit it to the Board of Selectmen for approval pursuant to § C-4 (m) of the Town Charter. The Classification Plan shall be implemented and administered by the Town Administrator.

IV. Salary Plan

- A. A Salary Plan is to be created by the HRB. Such Plan shall provide minimum and maximum salaries, or single rate salaries, for the groups and positions in the Classification Plan. The salary range, or rate, of a group shall be the salary range, or rate, for all positions classified in the group.
- B. The HRB shall transmit the Salary Plan to the Town Administrator who shall then submit it to the Board of Selectmen for approval pursuant to § C-4 (m) of the Town Charter. The Salary Plan shall be implemented and administered by the Town Administrator.

2. **Article III, section 59-9, Definitions**, by deleting the paragraph entitled "**Merit Increase**" in its entirety, and inserting a new paragraph entitled "**Performance based increase**" as follows:

"PERFORMANCE BASED INCREASE — A percentage increase in pay for an employee who meets the eligibility conditions specified in these policies."

3. **Article IV, Classification Plan, section 59-12 Administration**,

-by deleting the second sentence in the introductory paragraph, which reads: "The Personnel Director is responsible for the classification of all positions." Add the following sentences: "The Human Resources Board shall create the classification plan. The Personnel Director shall implement and administer the classification plan."

-by deleting paragraph (c) "**Classification review**" in its entirety and inserting a new paragraph as follows:

"(c) Classification review. The HRB shall review the duties of all positions subject to the Classification Plan. Such reviews shall be made at such intervals, as the HRB deems necessary and, to the extent, which the HRB considers practicable, shall include all classes of positions. The HRB may recommend to the Personnel Director a new position or reclassification of an existing position. The Personnel Director shall annually review all classes of positions in Town service to the end that all classes are reviewed on a three-year cycle. Incumbent employees, supervisors and department heads

may request, in any given year, that a specific class or classes be reviewed for applicability to current job conditions and situations and to the extent possible, the Personnel Director will assign priority to such requests. Formal requests for reclassification shall receive priority consideration. There shall be only one reclassification in any twelve-month period for any employee, except in unusual circumstances. In conducting these reviews, the Personnel Director shall meet and consult with supervisors and department heads in the same manner as detailed in Subsection B, above."

4. **Article V, Pay Plan**, by deleting **section 59-14 Development** in its entirety and inserting a new section **59-14 Development** as follows:

"59-14 Development.

The HRB shall be responsible for the development of a uniform and equitable pay plan, which shall consist, for each class of positions, minimum and maximum salaries for the groups and positions in the Classification Plan. The salary range of a group shall be the salary range for all positions classified in the group. The plan shall be submitted to the Personnel Director who shall transmit it to Board of Selectmen for approval in accordance with the Town Charter, § C4-2 (m)."

5. **Article V, Pay Plan**, by deleting **section 59-16, Administration**, in its entirety, and inserting a new section **59-16, Administration** as follows:

"59-16 Administration

- A. **Appointment rates.** An employee appointed to a position should normally be compensated at a minimum rate of pay assigned to the class to which the position is allocated. However original Employment at a salary above the minimum rate may be made upon written certification by the Town Administrator that such action is justified by exceptional qualifications of the applicant or by lack of qualified applicants available at the minimum rate.
- B. **Pay Plan salary review.** The pay plan shall be reviewed by the Human Resource Board as frequently as deemed necessary, but not less frequently than every 5 years.
- C. **Performance Based increases.** Salary increases within an established range are not automatic but require the attainment of a sufficiently high score on an annual performance review. The eligibility date for a performance based increase shall be on July 1 of each year, provided that the employee has worked at least three full months prior to that date. An employee, who reached the maximum of a particular salary range, may not receive further increases unless the position is regraded. No employee shall be given any increase that would cause them to be paid above their grade range. An employee on leave without pay shall not count such leave toward service for compensation purposes."
- (1) The following factors shall not affect eligibility for a performance based salary increase:
- (a) Overall pay adjustment resulting from a pay survey.
 - (b) Transfer within class or within range.
 - (c) Military leave without pay necessitated by a draft or reserve call-up because of a declared emergency up to 90 calendar days.
 - (d) A period of paid leave.
 - (e) Reclassification to a class of the same pay range or lower.
- (2) The denial of a performance based salary increase does not necessarily connote less than satisfactory service. To be eligible for a performance based salary increase, it is expected that an employee is performing at a higher than average level.
- D. **Performance evaluation.** For positions covered by formal performance evaluation, see Article VIII for appropriate policy and procedure.
- E. **Promotion.** Upon promotion, the employee's salary shall be set within the range of the higher class at a point, which provides an increase in the employee's previous salary, except that the new salary shall

not be more than the maximum rate of the higher classification level.

- F. Transfer. When an employee is transferred laterally from a position in one class to a position in another class at the same pay rate, or is transferred with no change in class, she or he shall continue to be paid at the same rate.
- G. Reallocation of position to a class in lower pay range. When job evaluation indicates that a position is reallocated to a class in a lower pay range, the current pay of an incumbent is not changed, and said incumbent or incumbents will continue to be eligible for increments up to the maximum of a lower pay range and be eligible for any general pay increases which may be established for all positions in the group affected.

6. **Article V, Pay Plan**, by deleting section 59-19, **Longevity pay**, in its entirety. Said amendment shall become effective July 1, 2004.

7. **Article VIII, Performance Evaluation**, section 59-31, **Procedure**, paragraph (D), by deleting the words "Merit Increase System" and inserting in their place the words "Performance Based Salary Increase System."

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Personnel Plan Review Committee/Board of Selectmen Subcommittee

ARTICLE 20. AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH PROPOSED PERSONNEL BY-LAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Easton Home Rule Charter as follows:

1. By deleting section C4-2 (m) in its entirety, and replacing it with the following:

(m) He shall receive a salary plan and a classification plan from the Human Resources Board. It shall include job descriptions, together with wage and salary schedules, for all departments established by this Charter, Administrative Code or town bylaw, except school department employees. He shall present the Human Resources Board's plans to the Board of Selectmen and they shall become effective within 30 days after submission unless rejected by the Selectmen. He shall perform day to day administration of the salary and classification plan and take all necessary steps to implement the plans.

2. By amending Section C3-2 (d) by inserting the words "Human Resource Board" after Industrial Development Commission.

3. By amending Section C5-2 by deleting the words "Town Administrator" in the third line, and replacing them with the words "Human Resources Board".

Submitted by the Personnel Plan Review Committee/Board of Selectmen Subcommittee

ARTICLE 21. FUNDING FOR WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by transfer from available funds, or appropriate by borrowing under the provisions of MGL Chapter 44 a sum of money to pay for the costs to conduct a wage and classification study of the Non-Union Employees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Personnel Plan Review Committee/Board of Selectmen Subcommittee

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof one at each meeting house and post office and one at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium and one at the Town Offices, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of November the year Two Thousand and Three.

Gerard S. Marsan, Chairman
Jeffrey L. Tufts
Carla A. Goodwin
EASTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Easton, Mass. November 3, 2003

By virtue hereof and as within directed, I have this day posted attested copies of this Warrant.

John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan,
Town Clerk of Easton

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Town of Easton
Special Town Election
Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Bristol, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in elections to vote at:

Precincts 1, 2 & 4 – Easton Jr. High School Gymnasium, Columbus Avenue
Precincts 3 & 6 – Knights of Columbus Hall, 375 Foundry Street
Precinct 5 – Easton Baptist Church, 195 Bay Road

On TUESDAY, THE NINTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

One Selectmen for Unexpired term to 2006;

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of November, 2003.

Gerard S. Marsan
Jeffrey L. Tufts
John S. Haederle
SELECTMEN OF EASTON

Easton, Mass. November 3, 2003

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John D. Melin, Constable of Easton

A true copy. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan
Town Clerk of Easton

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003

In accordance with the Warrant, the voters of the Town met at their respective polling places on Tuesday, December 9, 2003. The polls were opened at 8:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

The following names persons were duly sworn and performed the duties of election officers:

Precinct One – J. Jacques Tremblay, Warden; Sandra Keach, Clerk; Albert Becker, Deputy Clerk; Wilfred Roberge, Eleanor Bridge, Joseph Quietto, Checkers.

Precinct Two – Maureen Papineau, Warden; Dorothy Conceison, Deputy Warden; Jean Harney, Clerk; William MacMullen, Deputy Clerk; Patricia Baker, Irene Roberge, John Papineau, Checkers.

Precinct Three – Arlene Keach, Warden; Evelyn Carlson, Deputy Warden; Rena Salkovitz, Clerk; Joseph Camara, Deputy Clerk; Rose Furlong, Beverly Hanson, E. Pamela Corbett, Checkers.

Precinct Four – Elizabeth A. Porter, Warden; Lorraine Anderson, Deputy Warden; Constance Dumoulin, Clerk; Nancy Arns, David Devore, Catharine Becker, Checkers.

Precinct Five – Blanche Hicks, Warden; Bennie Moore, Deputy Warden; Helena Luxton, Clerk; William McAndrews, Nicolina Previti, Barbara Takach, Beverly Smith, Checkers.

Precinct Six – Mary Norrman, Warden; Harvey Blackman, Deputy Warden; Anne Marie Martin, Clerk; Marilyn Williams, Deputy Clerk; Jean Fisher, Estelle Blackman, Joan Hayward, Susan Henderson, Checkers.

Election Results:

Registered Voters 14,027	15% Turnout						
Total Votes Cast:	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
	213	546	257	424	360	254	2054
Final Election Results:	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Total
(Bold type = Elected to Office)							

SELECTMEN (Three Years) (Vote for One)							
Colleen A. Corona	89	222	82	194	204	124	915
Andrew W. Goodrich	50	184	99	124	103	70	630
Leo R. Harlow	73	133	75	99	53	60	493
Blanks & Scattering	0	3	1	5	0	0	9
Write ins	1	4	0	2	0	0	7
Total	213	546	257	424	360	254	2054

A True Record. Attest:
Janet Andrus Linehan, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

NOTES

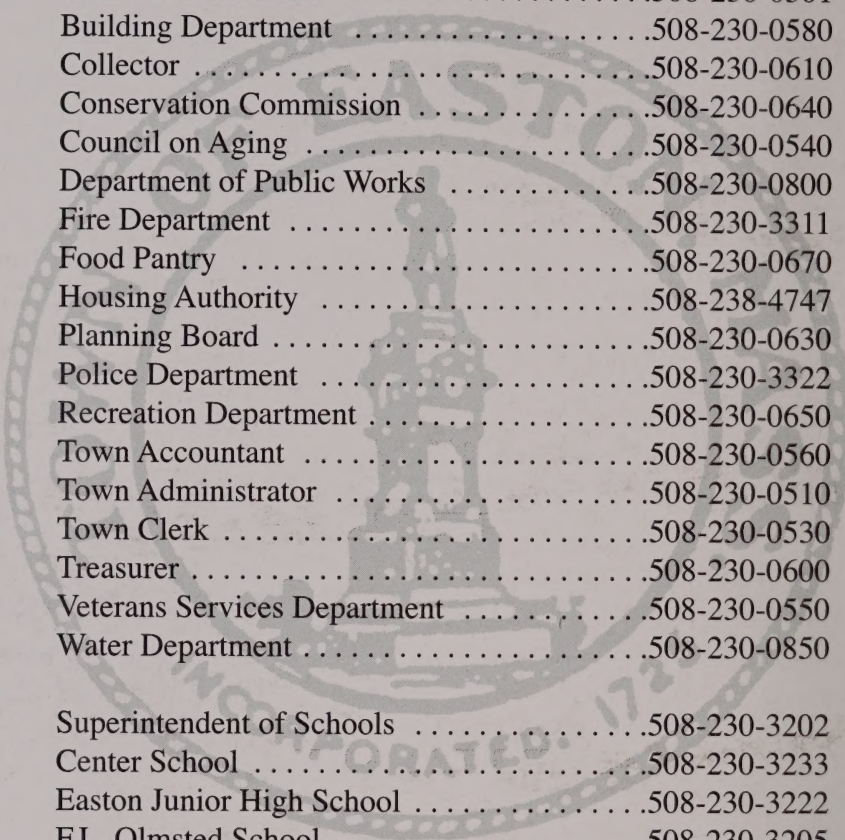
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AT YOUR SERVICE:



Ames Free Library	508-238-2000
Animal Control Officer	508-230-3353
Assessors	508-230-0520
Board of Appeals	508-230-0590
Board of Health	508-230-0620
Board of Selectmen	508-230-0501
Building Department	508-230-0580
Collector	508-230-0610
Conservation Commission	508-230-0640
Council on Aging	508-230-0540
Department of Public Works	508-230-0800
Fire Department	508-230-3311
Food Pantry	508-230-0670
Housing Authority	508-238-4747
Planning Board	508-230-0630
Police Department	508-230-3322
Recreation Department	508-230-0650
Town Accountant	508-230-0560
Town Administrator	508-230-0510
Town Clerk	508-230-0530
Treasurer	508-230-0600
Veterans Services Department	508-230-0550
Water Department	508-230-0850
Superintendent of Schools	508-230-3202
Center School	508-230-3233
Easton Junior High School	508-230-3222
F.L. Olmsted School	508-230-3205
H.H. Richardson School	508-230-3227
Moreau Hall	508-230-3235
Oliver Ames High School	508-230-3210
Parkview School	508-230-3230

**EASTON EMERGENCY
POLICE
FIRE
MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE**

DIAL 911